

STARS AND STRIPES®

**Seeking repeat,
White among
Heisman finalists**

Page 38

Oklahoma quarterback Jason White

**Yokosuka troops
dress up trees
for annual festival**

Page 20



**20 years in
bluegrass help
inspire singer**

Page 14

Volume 63, No. 238 © SS 2004 J

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2004

PHOTOGRAPHY: TERRY BOYD
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Off-base tickets get costlier at Misawa

Base joins other posts in assessing points for all traffic citations Page 3

Rumsfeld expects Army to fix armor problem

Marines in Fallujah 'get by' with what they have

Pages 4-5



TERRY BOYD/Stars and Stripes

Soldiers modified this unarmored Humvee with a "Lick Kit" of steel plates to give it a more robust look. That's important, they say, because the harder the vehicle looks, the less likely insurgents are to single it out for attack. The Pentagon said Wednesday it is rushing armored Humvees and armor plates to Iraq as fast as manufacturers can provide them. Earlier Wednesday, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld was publicly asked by a soldier in Kuwait why armored vehicles were not available to his unit.

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TODAY IN STRIPES

Abby, Annie's Mailbox	26
American Roundup	22-23
Classified	27-29
Comics	24-26
Crossword	25
Faces	14
Horoscope	24
Letters	18
Opinion	19
Sports	33-40
TV listings	17
Weather	32
Your Money	16

News Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Washington governor recount: Sitting at a folding table under fluorescent lights, Republican Lloyd Haskins Sr. held up ballots for Democrat Carl Brownstein to see, and they both marked their running totals on white scrap paper. They took part Wednesday in a hand recount of 2.9 million votes to determine the winner of the closest gubernatorial race in state history.

A machine recount found Republican Dino Rossi to be the winner by 42 votes over Democrat Christine Gregoire. The hand recount is the final tally allowed by state law.

States' budget fluctuations: States' finances are finally picking up, a new report says, with bursts of revenue in nearly every region of the country. But the good news comes with warnings that spending pressures are still so high they could unravel the gains.

Medicaid and other health-related costs top the list of financial worries, state budget leaders reported Thursday. And the borrowing, cuts and scaled-back spending of the last few years have left most states in worse shape than when the economy went south three years ago.

Durst sentencing: A millionaire New York real estate heir acquitted last year of murdering a Galveston Island neighbor faces sentencing later this month on weapons possession charges in Texas.

Under the agreement, Robert Durst and his lawyers reached on three federal weapons possession charges, the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania said Tuesday that the defendant would accept a nine-month prison term followed by two years of supervised release in exchange for guilty pleas.

Peterson sentencing: With a photograph of a pregnant Laci Peterson displayed behind him, a prosecutor in Redwood City, Calif., urged jurors Thursday to sentence Scott Peterson to death.

Scott Peterson's mother testified Wednesday that Laci "became like a daughter to us," adding that the 27-year-old schoolteacher was a perfect match for her son. Her tearful plea to save her son's life moved at least two jurors in his murder trial to tears.

World

Ukraine protests: Protesters lifted their siege of Ukraine's government building Thursday as tensions following weeks of demonstrations ebbed with parliament's adoption of electoral reform before a new presidential



Annan investigation: U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan, left, smiles during a meeting of the General Assembly on Wednesday. Jean Ping, center, of Gabon, the president of the 93rd session of the General Assembly, and Chen Jian, Under-Secretary-General for General Assembly and Conference Management, joined in a standing ovation. Annan won the ovation as a rare public display of support in response to recent calls for his resignation from many U.S. lawmakers. Diplomats cheered despite President Bush's refusal to back Annan pending results of a probe into alleged corruption in the U.N. oil-for-food program in Iraq.

runoff vote at the end of the month.

Opposition leaders said the barricades, which prevented senior civil servants from reaching their offices, were no longer necessary and that the real fight now was the campaign for the revote of the runoff election, set for Dec. 26.

Musharraf assassination plot: A court in Karachi, Pakistan, said police would be allowed to question an alleged Islamic militant accused of playing a role in a failed plot to kill President Gen. Pervez Musharraf, a prosecution lawyer said.

An outlawed Islamic militant group tried to detonate a car bomb on a road while Musharraf's motorcade passed on April 26, 2002, but their remote-controlled device malfunctioned and no one was hurt.

War on terrorism

Firefighter's funeral: Thousands of firefighters lined up outside a Bronx church Thursday in New York for the funeral of a fellow firefighter killed last week in Iraq when his Army National Guard unit was attacked outside Baghdad.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg, Gov. George Pataki, Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton and Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta were also expected to attend the funeral Mass for Sgt. Christian Engeldrum. Engeldrum, 39, a five-year fire veteran and former police officer who served with Ladder Co. 61 in the Bronx, was the first city employee to die in Iraq since the U.S.-led war began in March 2003.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

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Speeding could force drivers to hoof it

Misawa tallying points on license

BY JENNIFER H. SVAN

Stars and Stripes

MISAWA AIR BASE, Japan — Put the pedal to the metal off base and soon you could be thumping it.

Under a new policy, law enforcement officers at this northern Japan base now are tallying points against a person's driver's license for any traffic citations received off base.

The rule applies to any individual, including military personnel, civilians, contractors and family members, covered by the U.S.-Japan Status of Forces Agreement and issued a driver's license at Misawa Air Base.

"We are the (Department of Motor Vehicles) for SOFA members, if you want to equate it back to the U.S.," said Maj. Joe Milner, 35th Security Forces Squadron commander.

"Just like if you were in another state, or in this case, jurisdiction,"

How the new policy works

Examples of speeding violations and points added to a driver's record from Misawa Air Base's traffic point system and wing policy:

- Speeding 1 to 10 kph over speed limit: 3 points
- Speeding 10 to 15 kph over speed limit: 4 points
- Speeding 16 to 20 kph over speed limit: 5 points
- Speeding 20 to 30 kph over speed limit: 6 points

■ Speeding more than 30 kph over speed limit: immediate loss of driving privileges for three months.

■ Receive 12 points within one year: six-month license suspension

■ Receive 15 points within one year: one-year license revocation

■ Receive six tickets within 12 months: one-year revocation

— Stars and Stripes

tion," a traffic citation would "typically be forwarded back to your home state and they would take points on your license."

Security officials at Misawa learned last month that other bases in Japan already count points for off-base tickets.

In mid-November, the Air Force clarified its guidance on the issue, directing bases to "make sure you're doing this," Milner said.

"When we talked with 5th Air Force and U.S. Forces Japan, we found that (at) Yokota, Kadena and the other service bases, if you

get a ticket downtown, and they were the issuing base for your license, they were taking points for that."

The Japanese National Police always have sent Misawa security forces traffic citations issued to base residents, but typically base officials imposed no additional penalties for minor infractions.

Security forces would translate the information on the ticket and, in the case of a servicemember, forward it to the person's first sergeant or unit commander.

The supervisor usually took no action but to ensure the member

paid the associated fine, Milner said.

The base's traffic point system now applies to off-base violations. For example, a ticket for speeding 10 to 15 kilometers per hour (about 6 to 9 miles per hour) over the limit can add four points to one's driving record.

Twelve points accrued in a year results in a six-month suspension of driving privileges.

Milner said the biggest impact will be to drivers caught going excessively fast off base.

In August, Brig. Gen. Bill Rev, 35th Fighter Wing and installation commander, mandated that

anyone caught speeding 30 kph (about 18 mph) over the posted limit would immediately forfeit driving privileges for three months.

That penalty, Milner said, also applies to speeding off-base, where people tend to drive faster.

The major note that Japanese police do forward tickets recorded remotely by cameras on Japan's expressways.

Misawa's new policy applies to any citations received from Japanese National Police after Dec. 1, Milner said, regardless of when the incident occurred.

"There's a pretty good stack that has arrived," Milner said, noting one ticket forwarded by Japanese police this week was for a fine of 18,000 yen or about \$180.

He said he was unsure how fast the speeder was traveling but usually, the higher the fine, the higher the rate of speed.

"Our overall goal is still safety and community relations," Milner said.

"We want to be good neighbors here and speeding is not being a good neighbor. It has a detrimental effect on our relationship."

E-mail Jennifer H. Svan at: svanjp@stprp.esd.mil

Sasebo groups assist victims in Philippines

BY GREG TYLER

Stars and Stripes

SASEBO NAVAL BASE, Japan — The Sasebo Chapter of the Filipino-American Cultural Group, in conjunction with the Sasebo Council of the Navy League, announced on Thursday they are accepting donations to help Philippines tropical storm and typhoon victims.

More than 200,000 residents have been displaced by the storms.

At least 842 are known dead, and 751 are missing, according to various published reports.

More than 30,000 homes were destroyed and overall damages are estimated at \$58 billion.

"What we can accept is canned goods, clothing items, blankets and monetary donations," said Petty Officer 2nd Class Gina Duarte, FIL/AM president.

"We are conducting this effort with the Sasebo Navy League, and as we get the word out, so far the community reactions to our collections has been encouraging."

Duarte said a relief foundation in the Philippines will help coordinate delivering the donations to the ravaged areas.

"We have some funds as organizations that we can apply to offset some of the costs to ship donated items to the Philippines. We want anything donated to go to the disaster victims," Duarte said.

Jerry Havens, Sasebo Navy League president and FIL/AM member, said large boxes mailed through local businesses could "conceivably reach the Philippines in as short a time as two weeks."

"To make the greatest impact, this needs to be accomplished as soon as possible," Havens added. "Of course, this is not a short-term problem, and anything accumulated over the next couple of weeks will also be forwarded to the victims in the Philippines."

Call Duarte at DSN 252-2386 or Havens at DSN 252-3901 for more information.

E-mail Greg Tyler at: tylerg@stprp.esd.mil

Just checking



Above: Airman 1st Class Scott Bennett, a guidance and control specialist from the 374th Maintenance Squadron, Yokota Air Base, Japan, conducts a fuel quantity calibration test inside the cockpit of a C-130 aircraft during an annual inspection on Tuesday.

Right: Airman 1st Class Joshua Settles, an engine specialist from the 374th Maintenance Squadron, Yokota Air Base, Japan, inspects the propeller blades of a C-130 aircraft. Pacific Air Force C-130s undergo a major check here once a year to ensure that the fleet is in top condition.

PHOTOS BY VAL GEMPIS
Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

Kadena airmen join relief effort

KADENA AIR BASE, Okinawa — Kadena Air Base is sending aircraft and about 50 personnel to the Philippines to help the 3rd Marine Expeditionary Brigade's emergency disaster relief mission there.

Three 33rd Rescue Squadron HH-60 Pavahawks, two supporting MC-130 Combat Shadows from the 333rd Special Operations Group and a supporting 999th Air Refueling Squadron KC-135 Stratotanker left Kadena for Luzon island, said Maj. Michael Paoli, an 18th Wing spokesman. They will join some 600 Marines and sailors of the 3rd Marine Expeditionary Brigade providing humanitarian assistance to 200,000 displaced persons.

From staff reports

More local coverage on Pages 20-21

Rumsfeld: Army addressing armor problems

By THE ROBERT BURNS
The Associated Press

NEW DELHI, India — A day after being challenged by a soldier on the Army's failure to provide adequate armor for vehicles used in Iraq, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said Thursday he expects the Army to do its best to resolve the problem.

Thousands of miles away, President Bush echoed Rumsfeld's sentiments.

"The concerns expressed are being addressed and that is what we expect our troops to have the best possible equipment," Bush said at the White House. "If I were a soldier overseas wanting to defend my country I'd want to ask the secretary of defense the same question. And that is, 'Are we getting the best we can get us?' And they deserve the best."

"And I have told many families I've met with, we're doing everything we possibly can to protect your loved ones in a mission which is vital and important. And that mission is to spread freedom and peace," Bush said.

On Thursday, several Democrats on the House Armed Services Committee on Thursday repeated calls for new hearings on whether troops in Iraq are getting the protective equipment they need.

"This was, once again, a miscalculation by the Pentagon of exactly what kind of environment we would have after the fall of Saddam," said Rep. Ellen Tauscher, D-Calif.

The administration's statements "sound like this is all a big surprise," Tauscher said. "What you want to say to them is, 'Hey, knock it off. It's a big surprise because you thought you'd be out of there right now.'"

Rumsfeld, on a visit to the Indian capital, said it is good that ordinary soldiers are given a chance to express their concerns to the secretary of defense and senior military commanders.

"It's necessary for the Army to hear that, do something about it and see that everyone is treated properly," Rumsfeld said, referring not only to the complaint about insufficient armor but also another soldier's statement about not getting reimbursed for certain expenses in a timely way.

Those complaints, and others, were aired on Wednesday when Rumsfeld held a "town hall" style meeting with about 2,300 soldiers at Camp Buehring in northern Kuwait.



Rusty Davis smooths out rough edges as he puts an armored door on a U.S. military Humvee in April at the O'Gara-Hess plant in Fairfield, Ohio.

Spc. Thomas Wilson had asked Rumsfeld, "Why do we soldiers have to dig through local landfills for pieces of scrap metal and compromised ballistic glass to up-armor our vehicles?"

Shouts of approval and applause arose from other soldiers who had assembled in an aircraft hanger to see Rumsfeld.

Rumsfeld hesitated and asked Wilson to repeat his question.

"We do not have proper armored vehicles to carry with us north," Wilson, 31, concluded after asking again.

"You go to war with the Army you have," Rumsfeld replied, "not the Army you might want or wish to have."

Asked on Thursday about that exchange, the defense secretary said he believed the session in general was "very fine, warm [and] enjoyable." As for Wilson's statement, Rumsfeld said it could be constructive.

Rumsfeld said people should understand that the military has done all that can reasonably be expected to adjust to changing

circumstances in Iraq as the insurgents have refined their tactics.

"That is the way war and insurgencies and combat operate," he said. "You go in, you have an enemy with a brain that does things, and then you make adjustments." He added, "Does everything happen instantaneously as the brain in the enemy sees things and makes changes? No, it doesn't happen instantaneously." But, he said, the Army has adjusted "pretty rapidly" to the evolving tactics of the insurgents, including the need to have more armor on vehicles like the Humvee.

Rumsfeld spoke after meeting Thursday with Indian Defense Minister Shri Pranab Mukherjee. At the Ministry of Defense, Rumsfeld read a brief statement to reporters on U.S.-Indian military cooperation.

"The defense relationship is a strong one and something we intend to see is further knitted together as we go forward in the months and years ahead," he said.

Later he was meeting with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and then flying back to Washington.

Safer Humvees en route to Iraq

By LISA BURGESS
Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — As of Wednesday, 282 up-armored Humvees are on ships en route to the Midwest, adding to the nearly 6,000 in place, Army spokesmen said Thursday.

The U.S. military has 19,389 Humvees in Iraq and Kuwait, and 5,910 of the trucks "up-armored," or built with a chassis that accommodates special armor.

Another 9,134 Humvees that do not have the heavy armor chassis have been equipped with add-on armor kits to protect doors, floors and other vulnerable elements, according to statistics provided to Stars and Stripes on Thursday by the Army.

Another 252 armor kits are in Iraq or Kuwait awaiting installation.

But that leaves 4,345 Humvees in the Iraq theater with no armor at all, a situation that Army leaders have pledged to remedy by April 2005.

Military leaders responsible for the Iraq theater, who are at the U.S. Central Command headquarters in Florida, have decided they need no fewer than 8,105 up-armored Humvees in the Iraq theater, as well as an additional 13,872 add-on armor kits, Army spokeswoman Nancy Ray said.

That is enough armor to provide for all of the 19,389 Humvees now operating in the Iraq theater, as well as additional armor kits for the different types of vehicles, Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter Schoomaker told members of the House Armed Services Committee during a Nov. 17 hearing.

"We had 235 up-armored Humvees in-theater last year, and then we got a requirement for 1,407, so we started chasing that requirement," Schoomaker told members of Congress. "A month later, we got a requirement for 3,000, and then it went to 4,150, and then it went to 6,223, and now it's gone to 8,105."

In fact, as the requirement continued to climb, "What we now have figured out is, look, what the heck, we better up-armor everything we've got over there," Schoomaker told lawmakers.

"And that's what we're doing."

E-mail Lisa Burgess at: burgessl@stripes.osd.mil

Marines get by with armor available

By KATARINA KRATOVAC
The Associated Press

NEAR FALLUJAH, Iraq — U.S. Marines patrolling the former insurgent stronghold of Fallujah — some in open Humvees — say they've had some close calls, but "get by with what the vehicle and body armor they have."

"I think the armor we have for the vehicles is getting better and our body armor is OK. I have nothing against it," Sgt. Aaron D'Amico said Wednesday.

Told about complaints from disgruntled soldiers who told Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld earlier Wednesday they lacked armored vehicles and other equipment, D'Amico said, "I'd definitely opt for higher production of armor but the Marines get by with what we have."

D'Amico said his unit, the 1st Battalion of the 8th Marine Regiment, received new, upgraded vehicle armor a year ago, with Kevlar-protected seats. D'Amico's only complaint is that the open-roof Humvee provides no protection at the back.

The armor the Marines receive is "usually leftovers from the Army, the Army usually gets the better stuff," he added.

In November, U.S. deaths in Iraq reached 135, equaling the all-time high previously reached in April. Hundreds more were wounded. At least 54 deaths occurred during the Marine-led assault on Fallujah.

D'Amico said his closest call occurred four months ago in the town of Haditha in central Iraq, when a roadside bomb blew up by the side of his vehicle.

The blast and flying shrapnel nicked the side armor of the Humvee door but injured no one inside.

Cpl. Joshua Munns said it isn't easy to make the armor better.

"It has to be tested against the heaviest weapons infantry would encounter," Munns said.

"The vehicle floor Kevlar, for example is not meant to stop an explosion but prevents the vehicle floor from breaking apart on the inside," Munns added.

Asked whether he would prefer a closed Humvee with bulletproof windows, Munns said "it's a yes-and-no answer."

"An enclosed vehicle reduces your visibility and if you are not able to see an attack you might as well have no armor at all," he said. "It needs to be a fine balance between visibility and protection."



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Children's Church (English, Japanese)	10:45am		
Children's Sunday School			
Youth Aloha Service	1:00pm	THURSDAY	8:00pm-9:00
Home Fellowship Groups (every 1st & 3rd Sunday)	6:00pm	PRAYER HOUR	
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Guardsmen's ex not surprised at question

Army specialist never afraid to raise tough topics, former wife says

BY BILL POOVEY
The Associated Press

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. — Regina Wilson was not entirely surprised to see her ex-husband, a guardsman bound for Iraq, on television Wednesday challenging Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld with a tough question.

"He is always like that," she said. "I don't think he understands the concept of biting one's tongue. It wouldn't matter if it was [President] Bush himself standing there. He would have dished him the same."

Army Spc. Thomas Wilson, a 31-year-old member of a Tennessee National Guard unit, asked Rumsfeld why vehicle armor is still scarce, nearly two years after the start of the war.

"Why do we soldiers have to dig through local landfills for pieces of scrap metal and compromised ballistic glass to armor our vehicles?" he asked.



Wilson

Reporter's role in question

An American reporter has said he was involved in the soldier's questioning of Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld. Edward Lee Pitts, a reporter for the Chattanooga (Tenn.) Free Press, is embedded in the same unit as Spc. Thomas Wilson, who asked Rumsfeld the question about armored vehicles. In a note to his fellow staffers in Chattanooga, which was posted on the Romanesko inside-the-media Web site (www.poynter.org/column.asp?id=45), Pitts said he was told that only soldiers could ask Rumsfeld questions, "so I brought two of them along with me as escorts."

Pitts said: "Beforehand, we worked on questions to ask Rumsfeld about the appalling lack of armor their vehicles going into combat have." He said that while waiting for Rumsfeld, he found the person in charge of the microphone to be used in the question-and-answer session "and made sure he knew to get my guys out of the crowd."

From staff reports

The question prompted shouts of approval and applause from the estimated 2,300 soldiers assembled in a hangar in Kuwait to hear Rumsfeld.

Rumsfeld hesitated and asked Wilson, an airplane mechanic from Nashville, to repeat his question.

"We do not have proper armored vehicles to carry with us north," Thomas Wilson said.

Rumsfeld said the Army was producing manufacturers of vehicle armor to produce it quickly, but noted, "You go to war

with the Army you have, not the Army you might want or wish to have."

Regina Wilson said she saw the TV news reports about the question Wednesday after taking the children to meet the school bus.

She doesn't watch TV reports on the war while their two children — 10-year-old Megan and 5-year-old Thomas — are home because "it scares them to death."

She said Thomas Wilson joined the National Guard in June 2003. He had previ-

ously served in the Air Force in 1994 and served about four years, she said.

"It's all about duty, and he felt compelled to be over there," Wilson said, adding that both she and her ex-husband voted for Bush in November and support him "100 percent."

But she said she was not impressed with Rumsfeld's answer.

"He seemed like he was stuttering and stumbling — like he was caught off guard," she said. "Rumsfeld's answer seemed like he was sidestepping around the question."

She added, "If there is something lacking perhaps that is why our death toll is climbing."

Wilson's girlfriend, Marilyn Elam of Nashville, also said Rumsfeld "appeared to have been caught off guard." Elam said she hoped the defense secretary "takes that information and uses it constructively."

Regina Wilson said her former husband called home on a Saturday two weeks ago. His unit is about to drive north into Iraq for a one-year tour of duty.

Judge denies GI's request to block Iraq extension

BY SAM HANANIEL
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A soldier who challenged an Army policy requiring him to serve past the date of his enlistment contract must return for duty in Iraq while his lawsuit is under review, a federal judge ruled Wednesday.

U.S. District Judge Royce Lamberth refused to issue a temporary restraining order allowing Spc. David Qualls to remain in the United States, where he is home on leave. He is scheduled to fly to Iraq on Friday.

"It appears to me the extension was legally proper," Lamberth

said during the hourlong hearing. "I find no likelihood of success on the merits."

Qualls, 35, is one of eight soldiers challenging the "stop loss" policy that lets the Army extend enlistments during war or national emergencies to promote continuity and cohesiveness on the battlefield.

The lawsuit contends the enlistment contracts are misleading because they make no explicit reference to the policy.

The soldiers also say a note told them they could be kept in the service beyond their discharge date.

"Nothing in the contract that he

signed says anything about involuntary enlistment," said Jules Lobel, Qualls' attorney.

Justice Department attorney Matt Lepore, representing the Army, argued that Qualls' enlistment contract has a provision

that says he may be involuntarily ordered to active duty in the event of war, national emergency or any other condition required

by law.

Lepore said the language should be read broadly to include extensions of existing contracts.

Lamberth agreed the language was clear enough and rejected Lobel's claim that the military conflict does not qualify as a war because Congress never made a formal declaration of war.

"I don't think the average person looking at this would think we had to have a declared war" for it to apply, Lamberth said.

About 7,000 active-duty soldiers have had their contracts extended under the policy, and up to 40,000 reserve soldiers also could be ordered to stay longer.

The Army says the policy is needed to ensure there are enough experienced soldiers on the battlefield.

The other seven soldiers in the lawsuit — listed as John Does to protect their privacy — are serving in Iraq or are in Kuwait en route to Iraq, according to court papers. The soldiers, believed to be the first active-duty personnel to file such a lawsuit, are asking Lamberth to order the Army to immediately release them from service.

Qualls signed up for a one-year stint in the Arkansas National Guard in July 2003 but has been told he will remain on active duty in Iraq until next year. His pay stub now shows his term of service expiring on Dec. 24, 2031.

Packages make plea for missing reservist

BY LISA CORNWELL
The Associated Press

CINCINNATI, Ohio — U.S. troops in Iraq opening care packages sent by the family of Army Reserve Spc. Keith "Matt" Maupin are asked for only one favor in return — to help find the captured soldier.

Enclosed in each care package with candy, games, canned goods and other treats is a small plastic bag with 10 homemade pins bearing 21-year-old Maupin's photo.

A short note thanking the troops for defending their country also includes the family's simple, heartfelt request: "Please help us find him."

His parents, Carolyn and Keith Maupin, said they sort donations and pack boxes seven days a week at a support center they set up in two donated, empty storefronts in suburban Cincinnati.

"I know he will come back to us," Carolyn Maupin said.

She spoke calmly, her hands in constant motion while attaching yellow ribbons to the photo pins.

"Maybe someone will see one of these photos and it will help them find him."

"Even if they just drop the photo in their pocket, it could help them know it's Matt when they find him," Keith Maupin said.

Maupin, missing since his convoy was attacked April 9 west of Baghdad, is the only Army soldier listed as captured in Iraq or Afghanistan.

"Every effort has been made and is continuing to be made to find him," said Maj. Elizabeth Robbins, an Army spokeswoman at the Pentagon who would not discuss specifics of the search.

In June, an Arab satellite station Al-Jazeera broadcast a video showing a blindfolded man sitting on the ground that the station said was Maupin.

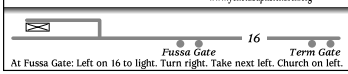
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At Fussa Gate: Left on 16 to light. Turn right. Take next left. Church on left.

Shiite groups name 228 election candidates

BY SAMEER N. YACCOUB
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Iraq's main Shi'ite groups Thursday announced a diverse list of 228 candidates for the Jan. 30 elections, a victory for Shi'ite leaders who wanted to present a powerful, united front as they seek a leading role in post-Saddam Iraq after years on the sidelines.

Yet Iraq's major Sunni factions, whose participation in the vote will be crucial to making it legitimate, were not included and have not put forward a list of candidates. Also absent was a radical Shi'ite cleric who could spoil the Shi'ite unity if he rejects the coalition's authority.

In violence in the run-up to the vote, seven Iraqis were killed in separate clashes in Baghdad and the volatile western city of Ramadiki.

A car bomb also rocked a busy Mosul vegetable market, wounding two civilians, while a U.S. soldier was injured by roadside bomb in the capital. Another American soldier suffered minor injuries in a similar attack the day before in Samarra, the scene of clashes that culminated in the resignation of the town's police chief.

The list of 23 parties, dubbed the United Iraqi Alliance, may put new pressure on the Sunnis to join the race for the vote, especially if it seems far more likely to proceed. Key Sunni leaders have demanded a boycott, but the interim Iraqi government and President Bush have said the election must go ahead.

Iraq's leading Shi'ite cleric, Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, gave his blessing to the list. He has been working to unite Iraq's majority Shi'ite, head of the vote to ensure victory, plus include representatives from Iraq's other diverse communities. Shi'ites comprise 60 percent of Iraq's 26 million population.



Iraqi people gather near the remains of a car bomb Thursday in Mosul, Iraq. The bomb exploded in a crowded market in this northern city and caused Iraqi casualties, the police and U.S. military said.

The 228 candidates include independent Sunni Muslims, a Shi'ite Kurdish group, members of the Yazidis minority religious sect, and a Turkomen movement, among others. Also among them are members of the Iraqi National Congress, led by former exile and one-time Pentagon favorite Ahmad Chalabi.

"I think that this list is a patriotic list. We hope that the Iraqi people will back this list," Sheikh Fawaz al-Jarba, head of the powerful Sunni Shemar tribes in the northwestern city of Mosul, said at the end of the conference.

Yet there are divides. Separate candidate lists are being compiled by aides to President Ghazi al-Yawer and Prime Minister Ayad Allawi — drawing some Shi'ites away from the ticket that al-Sistani is overseeing, well-con-

nected Shi'ite figures have said. The main Kurdish parties will contest the vote with their own unified list, Kurdish leaders have said.

The biggest wild card among the Shi'ites is firebrand cleric Muqtada al-Sadr. An aide said al-Sadr's movement had been invited to take part; he suggested the group refused because it wants to see how the vote plays out.

"If the elections results will be beneficial, we will have another chance to join the elections in the coming phases, and if their results were bad it will be recorded that we did not support the occupation's existence," said Hassan al-Zarqani, al-Sadr's representative in Beirut, Lebanon.

Al-Sadr's movement, which wields wide grassroots support among impoverished and young Shi'ites, has previously sent

mixed messages about its role in the country's political process. There were signs that while al-Sadr and his top aides were not participating, the list had support of others of his followers.

The alliance includes the major Shi'ite political parties, the Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution and the Islamic Dawa Party. Both have strong links with Iran, a Shi'ite but non-Arab neighbor, something the Sadrist often use to question their rivals' Arab identity and commitment to Iraq's interests.

The election will be Iraq's first popular vote since Saddam Hussein's ouster. Iraqis will choose a 275-member assembly that will write a permanent constitution. If adopted in a referendum next year, the constitution would form the legal basis for another general election to be held by Dec. 15, 2005.

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Wednesday, at least 1,281 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,001 died as a result of hostile action, the Defense Department said.

The figures include three military civilians.

The AP count is five higher than the Defense Department's tally, last updated at 10 a.m. EST Wednesday.

The British military has reported 74 deaths: Italy, 19; Poland, 13; Spain, 11; Ukraine, nine; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary and Latvia one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,143 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ No latest deaths reported. The latest identifications reported by the military:

■ **Marine** Capt. G. C. Kim, 23, Warren, Mich.; died Tuesday from a nonhostile vehicle incident in Iraq's Anbar province; assigned to 9th Communications Battalion, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, Calif.

■ **Army** Sgt. Andrew M. White, 25, Kirkland, Wash.; died Sunday in Ramadi, Iraq, when his unit was attacked by small arms fire; assigned to the 4th Engineer Battalion, 2nd Infantry Division, Camp Howze, South Korea.

Japan extends troops in Iraq a year

BY NATALIE OBKO PEARSON
The Associated Press

TOKYO — Japan will keep its troops in Iraq for another year, Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi announced Thursday, arguing that extending the unpopular mission — the military's most dangerous overseas deployment since World War II — is a necessary duty.

Koizumi said he had "no doubts" the mission was essential to Iraq's reconstruction and the security of Japan, which depends closely on its top ally, the United States.

"The Iraqis are trying to build a government with their own hands. We must support this. The Self-Defense Forces are needed for this end," he said in a nationally televised address.

The prime minister, who staunchly backed the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq, added, "Japan cannot ensure its peace and independence on its own."

"We must not isolate the United States. We must create an environment in which the United States can cooperate with the world," Koizumi said. About 30,000 U.S. troops are based in Japan under a security treaty.

Koizumi spoke after the Cabinet voted to keep Japan's 500 non-combat troops in southern Iraq to purify water and rebuild infrastructure. The troops

were sent to Iraq in January, the largest overseas mission for Japan's postwar military.

Opinion polls show about half of Japanese citizens oppose the deployment for fear they could be drawn into the fighting. Other surveys have shown that about 50 percent backed withdrawing the troops when the current mission's mandate expires next week.

About 20 protesters gathered in front of parliament after the decision and submitted a written demand to Koizumi's office that the troops be brought home, said Tatsuya Yoshioka, director of Peace Boat, an activist group.

"It's completely ridiculous and illogical," Yoshioka said, maintaining the government was placing more importance on the U.S.-Japanese alliance than on the lives of Japanese citizens.

Plans for larger protests were under way for Dec. 14, the date the mission was set to expire.

Opposition leaders have opposed the dispatch, arguing that the troops were deployed in a war zone even though by law they were authorized only to operate in a non-combat area. Critics also say the deployment violates the spirit of Japan's pacifist constitution, which forewarns the use of force to settle international disputes.

Katsuya Okada, head of the opposition Democratic Party, called the decision to extend the mission "extremely regrettable."

S. Korean parliament fails to vote on troop deployment

The Associated Press

SEOUL — South Korea's parliament on Thursday failed to vote on the government's plan to extend the deployment of 3,600 South Korean troops in Iraq for another year.

The political logjam came a day after President Roh Moo-hyun made a surprise visit to northern Korea to cheer South Korean troops helping rebuild the violence-wracked country.

About 80 lawmakers, most of them members of Roh's ruling U.Party, questioned the government's decision and called a last-minute debate before the 299-member National Assembly closed a regular session at midnight Thursday.

But the opposition boycotted the session, and the debate never took place.

The conservative opposition Grand National Party supports ex-

tending the deployment but accuses the ruling party of being divided on the move, which is considered important for Seoul's traditional alliance with Washington.

The U.Party, which holds a majority in the assembly, said it would call an extraordinary parliamentary session in the week or next week to approve the government's proposal.

Last month, the government decided to extend the troop deployment in the Kurdish town of Irbil until the end of 2005.

South Korea completed deploying its forces to Irbil last month, becoming the third-largest contributor of troops to the coalition after the United States and Britain.

South Korea, a key ally of the United States, has portrayed the troop deployment as a way of strengthening ties with Washington and winning U.S. support for a peaceful end to the standoff over North Korea's nuclear activity.

IN THE WORLD



A typhoon victim is helped off a rescue helicopter by Red Cross personnel at the Villamor Air Base in Manila, Philippines, on Thursday. The typhoons last week killed at least 842 people, and more than 750 are still missing.

4 saved from collapsed building in Philippines

By PAT ROQUE
The Associated Press

REAL, Philippines—Rescuers pulled four survivors Thursday from a building that collapsed in mudslides 10 days ago, while the death toll from devastating storms in the Philippines' north-east rose to 842. More than 750 people are missing.

The four survived by drinking "any kind of liquid that dripped" through the rubble under which they were buried, said Maria Tamaras, 49, who was rescued along with her 3-year-old granddaughter and two 14-year-old boys in Real, about 40 miles east of Manila.

Tamaras said a male relative died beside her, pleading for water, on the third day.

As rescue crews continued to

pick their way through debris, the Office of Civil Defense debar the number of confirmed deaths from the storms by 102 to 842.

It said 751 people were still missing.

"We felt like we were entombed between heaven and earth," Tamaras said. "There was nothing but darkness. I thought our time had come."

Tamaras and the others had apparently been trapped in the kitchen of a two-story building that was buried under piles of mud Nov. 29, when the worst of two back-to-back storms battered the region.

"We will continue our recovery efforts until in our judgment those that we have to recover have all been recovered," said the military's Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Efrén Abu.

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Canada's Supreme Court says gay marriage legal

Legislature may pass national law early next year allowing act

By BETH DUFF-BROWN

The Associated Press

TORONTO — In a landmark opinion, Canada's Supreme Court said Thursday that proposed legislation allowing gay marriage is constitutional, but the government cannot force religious officials to perform unions against their beliefs.

The Liberal government had sought the court's opinion, which is strictly advisory, as the House of Commons determines whether to legalize gay marriage at a federal level. Judges in six provinces and one territory have already allowed same-sex marriage.

Canada would join Belgium and the Netherlands in allowing gay marriage if the law is passed.

"Several centuries ago, it would have been understood that marriage be available only to opposite-sex couples," the court said in its opinion. "The recognition of same-sex marriage in several Canadian jurisdictions as well as two European countries belies the assertion that the same is true today."

The legislation is expected to be introduced early next year.

Legal conservatives and even some Liberal lawmakers were expected to wage a bitter battle

to limit marriage to heterosexuals.

The gay marriage law needs the backing of at least 155 legislators in the 308-seat House of Commons to pass. It has the backing of the 38 Liberal Cabinet members and is believed to be supported by nearly all legislators in the Bloc Quebecois and

New Democrat parties, which have 54 and 19 seats.

Supporters now need support from about half the 95 Liberal backbenchers. However, there are some dissent in the ranks.

"I do personally have a problem with redefining marriage and I'm sure some of my colleagues do as well," said Liberal lawmaker Roy Cullen.

Public opinion in Canada is evenly divided on the matter, and both sides are preparing for the next phase of the battle.

"This is a victory for Canada values," said Alexander Munster of Canadians for Equal Marriage.

Gordon Young, pastor of the First Assembly of God Church in St. John's, Newfoundland, was highly disappointed.

"It's a sad day for our country," Young told CBC television news.

"God is in the DNA of this nation. We believe that changing the definition of marriage is changing the divine institution that God put in place for the order of our society."



Patrons in a Calgary bar listen Thursday to the Supreme Court of Canada announcing its decision on same-sex marriage. Canada's top court said Ottawa has the authority to redefine marriage to include same-sex couples.

Report: Japan's ruling party approves outline that eases arms export laws

The Associated Press

TOKYO — Japan's ruling party on Thursday endorsed a defense outline that would relax the nation's arms export ban and allow development and production of a missile defense system with the United States, Japanese media reported.

The reported approval by the ruling Liberal Democratic Party's defense panel paves the way for Friday's Cabinet approval and official announcement of the new outline of Japan's defense plan for next fiscal year.

The LDP panel also approved a 3.7 percent cut in defense spending to a total of \$23 billion for the next five years, following an agreement reached between the defense and finance ministries, Japanese newspapers reported.

A plan to trim the Ground Self-Defense Force to 155,000 by slashing 5,000 from the current level was also approved.

The new guidelines call for an easing of Japan's arms exports ban so that the nation can jointly develop and produce a missile defense system with the United States, Kyodo News reported.

Japan in 1967 banned weapons shipments to communist bloc nations, countries under United Nations arms embargoes or those engaged in conflicts. The ban was extended in 1976 to exports to all foreign countries.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Hiroyuki Hosoda will make an official announcement Friday, Kyodo said. Both the LDP and the Defense Agency refused to comment on Thursday's reports.

The new defense outline, which covers a period from April 1, 2005, through March 31, 2009, weaves away at Japan's postwar policy to maintain a self-defense-only military.

The outline signals out China and North Korea as regional security concerns, and calls for a more assertive role by the military with "prompt, mobile, multifunctional and effective defense capabilities," Kyodo said.

Japan has been reviewing its defense policy amid threats from possible terrorist attacks and North Korea. The North has become one of Tokyo's biggest security worries; it test-fired a long-range ballistic missile over Japan in 1998 and has an active nuclear weapons program.

Marines arrive at consulate

JIDDAH, Saudi Arabia — A team of U.S. Marines has arrived in this Red Sea port to assist in security at a U.S. Consulate that came under attack this week by Islamic militants, an American Embassy official said Thursday.

The anti-terrorism security team arrived Wednesday,

embassy spokeswoman Carol Kain said.

Such teams typically include 50 Marines and are expert in providing security and conducting raids in urban areas, Marine officials in the United States have said. The teams often are deployed in the aftermath of a terrorist attack.

From The Associated Press

Congo death toll

DAKAR, Senegal — Six years of continuing conflict in Congo have claimed 3.8 million lives, half of them children, with most of them killed by disease and famine in the still largely cut-off east, the International Rescue Committee said in a study released Thursday.

The international association for years has produced the most widely used running estimate of deaths in Congo, Africa's third largest nation.

More than 31,000 civilians continue to die monthly despite peace deals reached by 2002, the group says, citing mortality surveys conducted with the assistance of on-site teams of physicians and epidemiologists.

Pope's Christmas tree

VATICAN CITY — The pope's Christmas tree arrived in St. Peter's Square Thursday, after two days of travel from the Alpine forests of northern Italy.

The fir, more than a century old and 105 feet tall, was given to Pope John Paul II by the Trento region in the Dolomites. The tree was hauled up by helicopter and placed next to the structure that will house a life-sized nativity scene.

The official lighting ceremony is scheduled for Dec. 15. The idea of a Christmas tree in St. Peter's Square also comes from the Polish pope, who introduced the first tree in 1982.

From The Associated Press

IRA agrees to disarm — but no photos

The Associated Press

BELFAST, Northern Ireland — The Irish Republican Army declared for the first time Thursday that it's willing to get rid of its entire weapons stockpile within weeks — but it won't allow anybody to photograph the disarmament.

The outlawed IRA made its new offer of speedy disarmament a day after the British and Irish governments published a detailed plan designed to revive a Catholic-Protestant administration, the intended cornerstone of the province's Good Friday peace accord of 1998.

The two diametrically opposed forces that would have to share power — the British Protestants of the Democratic Unionist Party and the Irish Catholics of Sinn Fein, the IRA-linked party — agree they are close to a historic pact.

But just as the IRA's longtime refusal to disarm has wrecked previous power-sharing pacts, its refusal to permit photos of its disarmament has become the deal-breaker this time.

The IRA said Democratic Unionist leader Ian Paisley "demanded that our contribution be photographed, and reduced to an act of humiliation. This was never possible." But the Democratic Unionists declared its readiness for a protracted standoff if the IRA doesn't budge on permitting photos.

All sides agreed Thursday that the IRA's latest commitments represent a stunning advance from 1997, when the underground organization halted its 27-year campaign against British rule, which left 1,800 dead and tens of thousands injured.

At that time, IRA activists plastered walls



Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams speaks to the media Thursday during a press conference in West Belfast, Northern Ireland, on the latest developments in the Northern Ireland peace process.

with the defiant slogan "Not a bullet, not an ounce." This meant the IRA would cling to its massive arsenal — largely supplied by Libya in the mid-1980s and hidden in underground bunkers — as its most valuable negotiating card.

The IRA will allow two clergymen — one a Catholic priest approved by Sinn Fein, the other a Protestant nominated by the Democratic Unionists — to act as independent ob-

servers, another new commitment.

The IRA also moved closer to demands for the group to fade away in a power-sharing deal.

It said it would instruct its membership — estimated at less than 1,000 people organized in small units — "not to engage in any activity which might thereby endanger that new agreement."

Sinn Fein chairman Mitchel McLaughlin said Protestants instead must accept as sufficient the IRA's offer of independent witnesses.

"The photographs have been ruled out and we should just accept that as [being] a bridge too far," McLaughlin said.

But the Democratic Unionists declared its readiness for a protracted standoff if the IRA doesn't budge on permitting photos.

"If there is going to be an impasse over de-commissioning, then it could go on for a long time," said Democratic Unionist negotiator Jeffrey Donaldson. "Republicans are going to have to revise their position."

The British and Irish governments agreed that IRA disarmament must be sufficiently "transparent" for the public, particularly the Protestant majority, to support power-sharing with Sinn Fein.

Britain's governor for Northern Ireland, Paul Murphy, said he understood Sinn Fein-IRA worries that Paisley could use photos to rub the movement's nose in surrender claims.

"At the same time," Murphy said, "unless we are able to give confidence to people throughout the whole of Northern Ireland that de-commissioning has happened, then this simply is not going to work."

China builds memorial to lab animals

BEIJING — China has unveiled a monument to the unknown mouse. The memorial stone at the Animal Research Institute in Beijing honors the mice, guinea pigs, rabbits and rhesus monkeys that have died in the race to develop a vaccine for SARS.

The stone slab in the institute courtyard is etched with three Chinese characters meaning "A stone to comfort the departed souls," Wan Zijun, administrator of the China Academy of Medical Sciences, said. Wan could not say how many animals were killed in the development of the vaccine for severe acute respiratory syndrome.

From The Associated Press

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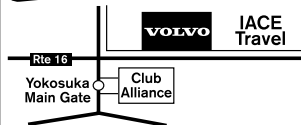
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IN THE STATES

5 dead after shootings at Ohio concert

Heavy metal guitarist 'Dimebag' Darrell Abbott among those killed

BY JAY COHEN
The Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — A gunman charged onstage at a nightclub and opened fire on the band and crowd, killing top heavy metal guitarist "Dimebag" Darrell Abbott and three other people before a police officer shot him to death, authorities said.

The gunman had a hostage in a headlock and appeared to be preparing to kill him when the officer hit him in the face with a rifle, a witness and police spokesman Sgt. Brent Mull said. The hostage escaped uninjured, Mull said.

Two other people were hospitalized. Police said one was in intensive care and the other was stable.

Police identified the gunman as Nathan Gale, 25, of Marysville, 25 miles northwest of Columbus. Police said they had no information on a motive or any connection to Abbott or his band, the Texas-based group Damageplan.

Damageplan had just begun its first song at Arosa Villa club Wednesday night when the gunman climbed onstage, started yelling and shot Abbott five or six times at

point-blank range, witness Chris Couch said.

Mull said the gunman's exact statement was unclear because of the loud music. He said some witnesses reported hearing an accusation about Abbott breaking up his former band, thrash-rock pioneer Pantera, but police could not confirm whether the speaker was the gunman or a fan.

Police believe there were earlier threats against the band, Mull said.

He declined to give specifics.

Witnesses said the man, who was wearing a Columbus Blue Jackets hockey jersey over a hooded sweat shirt, jumped an 8-foot wooden fence and was being followed through the crowd by club security.

After firing on the guitarist, the gunman shot a bouncer who had pulled him off the musician, while fans surged toward the

exit, said Couch, 22. The gunman then fired into the crowd of more than 250 people, Mull said.

Mull said Officer James D. Niggemeyer, patrolling nearby, arrived within two minutes of hearing the call. Niggemeyer, 31, saw one person lying dead and the suspect holding onto another "pretty much in a headlock," Mull said.

He said the hostage, "probably a fan, maybe someone who worked with the band," was able to maneuver out of the way before the officer fired.

Besides Abbott and Gale, police identified the dead as Nathan Bray, 23; Erin Halk, 29, and Jeff Thompson, 40.

Couch said he believed the shooter had a plan. "It was definitely a grudge. It was against something," he said.

Mull said he believed there was amateur video that officers could view for clues but that police had no answers yet. "We may never know a motive for this, unless he left a note," Mull said.

Gale has a minor police record in Marysville, said Police Chief Floyd Golden. He was pulled over for driving with a suspended license last month.



People hug in the parking lot following shooting at the Arosa Villa nightclub in Columbus, Ohio, on Wednesday.



Abbott

Coast Guard chopper on rescue mission goes down off Alaska

BY MATT VOLZ
The Associated Press

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — A Coast Guard rescue helicopter ferrying crew members from a stranded freighter crashed in the Bering Sea, leaving six people missing in the rough and frigid waters. The ship they left behind ran aground and split apart.

The other four on the helicopter — three Coast Guard personnel and one crewmember — were picked up by another helicopter participating in the rescue, the Coast Guard said. They were taken to Dutch Harbor on nearby Unalaska Island for medical treatment.

There was no immediate word of their condition.

The freighter is owned by Singapore-based IMC Group and is registered under a Malaysian flag. Its crew was Filipino and Indian, the Coast Guard said.

Two other people who had stayed behind on the ship were rescued separately, as were 18 other crewmembers taken off the ship earlier.

The Coast Guard had been struggling to help the 738-foot freighter, the Selendang Ayu, since Tuesday when it began drifting after its main engine broke down. But 25-foot swells and 30-knot winds hampered efforts.

Coast Guard Chief Petty Officer Roger Wetherell said the search was continuing early Thursday for the six missing. The water temperature was about 43 degrees Fahrenheit and the waves were as high as 20 feet.

After daybreak a plane and two

Copter crashes in Bering Sea

A Coast Guard helicopter with 10 people aboard crashed into the Bering Sea while airlifting crew from a freighter grounded on Unalaska Island. Six people were unaccounted for.



SOURCE: ESRI

helicopters will be dispatched to join the search, Wetherell said. "The survival time is right around three hours in those conditions," Rear Adm. James Olson, commander of the Coast Guard in Alaska, said earlier. "We'll search as long as we can be effective throughout the night."

Olson said he did not know whether the crewmembers were wearing survival gear.

The cause of the crash was not known.

The Selendang Ayu is a single-deck bulk carrier built in China in 1998. It is owned by IMC Transworld, a subsidiary of IMC Group.

Company representatives are in Dutch Harbor and have met with Coast Guard officials, Olson said.

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Bush taps new Veterans Affairs chief

Housing, Interior, Labor and Transportation secretaries to stay

By JENNIFER LOVEN

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush announced on Thursday that Jim Nicholson, former chairman of the Republican National Committee and current U.S. ambassador to the Vatican, is his choice as the next secretary of the Veterans Affairs Department.

Veterans Secretary Anthony Principi on Wednesday became the ninth member of Bush's 15-person Cabinet to leave. Nicholson, chosen to replace him, is a decorated Vietnam veteran.

Bush has also asked the secretaries of the Transportation, Labor, Interior and Housing departments to remain. They have all agreed, completing decisions about which Cabinet members will stay for his second term.

Bush spoke with the four Cabinet secretaries — Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta, Interior Secretary Gale Norton, Housing and Urban Development Secretary Alphonso Jackson and Labor Secretary Elaine Chao — to secure their decisions to remain in the Cabinet, White House press secretary Scott McClellan said.

In the brief Roosevelt Room announcement ceremony, Bush described Nicholson as "a patriot, a



President Bush, right, introduced Jim Nicholson, his choice to replace Secretary of Veterans Affairs Anthony Principi, Thursday in the Roosevelt Room of the White House. Nicholson, once chairman of the Republican National Committee, is ambassador to the Vatican.

man of deep conviction who has answered his country's call many times."

Nicholson stood at his side, with his wife and two of their children looking on.

"When I think of growing up dirt poor in a tenant house without plumbing and sometimes without food, I marvel at America, that the boy from Struble, Iowa, may serve in the presi-

dent's Cabinet. How could this be?" Nicholson said.

"For me, it is because of the opportunities my country gave me as a cadet at West Point and as a soldier. These experiences have defined my life."

The White House had announced Wednesday that Treasury Secretary John Snow would remain in his post.

Bush still must fill the top jobs

Principi's resignation letter

The Associated Press

Text of the resignation letter, dated Nov. 16, from Veterans Affairs Secretary Anthony Principi to President Bush, as released by the White House:

Dear Mr. President: Under your leadership and the increased budgets you proposed, the Department of Veterans Affairs and the veterans we serve have enjoyed dramatic increases in access to quality health care and transforming improvements in the delivery of benefits and services.

I have unbounded gratitude for the confidence you dis-

played in entrusting me with stewardship of your commitment to the men and women who now wear, or once wore, the uniforms of America's armed forces. I am deeply honored by the opportunity to serve you and your Administration.

However, after four years dedicated to a profoundly important mission and a Department I love, it is now time for me to move on to fresh opportunities and different challenges.

I am, therefore, submitting my resignation as Secretary, effective upon confirmation of a successor.

Very Respectfully,
Anthony J. Principi

at the Energy and Health and Human Services departments. McClellan said Thursday he would not speculate on who would take those jobs.

Energy chief Spencer Abraham announced his resignation on Nov. 15, which suggests the White House has had difficulty finding a replacement.

Medicare chief Mark McClellan, who also has served as commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration and is the brother

of Scott McClellan — is considered to be Bush's top choice to replace Secretary Tommy Thompson at Health and Human Services.

The amount of changeover in Bush's Cabinet is on the high side for a second-term president. Presidents Clinton and Reagan saw seven Cabinet seats change hands after they won new terms, President Nixon nine and Presidents Truman and Lyndon Johnson four each.

The many faces of 'dude': linguist defines slang

By MIKE CRISSEY

The Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Dude, you've got to read this.

A linguist from the University of Pittsburgh has published a scholarly paper deconstructing and deciphering the word "dude," contending it is much more than a catchall for lazy, inarticulate surfers, skaters, slackers and teenagers.

An admitted dude-user during his college years, Scott Kiesling said the four-letter word has many uses: in greetings ("What's up, dude?"), as an exclamation ("Whoa, Dude!"), as a commiseration

("Dude, I'm so sorry"), to one-up someone ("That's so lame dude"), as well as agreement, surprise and disgust ("Dude!").

Kiesling says in the fall edition of *American Speech*, that the word derives its power from something he calls cold solidarity — an effortless handshake that's not too intimate.

Cool solidarity is especially important to young men who are under social pressure to be close with other young men, but not enough to be suspected as gay.

In other words: Close, dude, but not too close.

"It's like 'man' or 'buddy';

there is often this male-male addressed term that says, 'I'm your friend but not much more than your friend,'" said Kiesling, whose research focuses on language and masculinity.



Kiesling

To decode the word's meaning, Kiesling listened to conversations with fraternity members he taped in 1993. He also

had undergraduate students in sociolinguistics classes in 2001 and 2002 write down the first 20 times they heard "dude" and who said it during a three-day period.

He found the word taps into nonconformity and a new American image of leisurely success.

Anecdotally, men were the predominant users of the word, but women sometimes call each other dudes.

Less frequently, men will call women dudes and vice versa. But that comes with some rules, according to self-reporting from students in a 2002 language and gender class included in the paper.

"Men report that they use dude with women with whom they are close friends, but not with women with whom they are intimate," according to the study.

His students also reported that they were least likely to use the word with parents, bosses and professors.

Historically, "dude" originally meant "old rags," a "dude man" was a scarecrow. In the late 1800s, a "dude" was akin to a "dandy," a meticulously dressed man, especially out West. It became "cool" in the 1930s and 1940s, according to Kiesling. Dude began its rise in the teenage lexicon with the 1981 movie "Fast Times at Ridgemont High."

No lighters in plane cabins

WASHINGTON — Passengers already are barred from smoking on commercial airline flights in the United States. Now they won't be allowed to bring their butane lighters on board, either.

As part of the intelligence reform bill passed Wednesday, Congress added the lighters to the long list of items, including scissors and box cutters, that passengers are barred from carrying on planes. The ban does not apply to checked luggage.

Matches still are allowed. Dorgan cited FBI reports that would-be "shoe-bomber" Richard Reid would have been able to ignite his explosive three years ago if he'd brought a butane lighter.

The ban takes effect 60 days after President Bush signs the intelligence reform bill into law.

From The Associated Press

Bush rules out tax increase for Social Security

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush on Thursday flatly ruled out raising payroll taxes to ensure the solvency of Social Security as he began a push for historic changes in the retirement program.

Bush renewed his call for legislation that would let workers create private retirement accounts within the government-run program.

"We will not raise payroll taxes to solve this problem," Bush said as he met in the Oval Office with a panel of advisers on the Social Security issue.

Bush sidestepped questions about whether the nation can afford to borrow

in order to confront a shortfall in the trillions of dollars.

"I will not prejudice any solution," Bush said.

At a time of record deficits, estimates of the money needed range from \$1 trillion to \$2 trillion or more over a decade. Bush said the total unfunded liability is \$1.1 trillion.

"Does this country have the will to address this problem? I think it must," Bush said, sitting next to Treasury Secretary John Snow and the members of his panel.

"There is a recognition among the experts that we have a problem, and the problem is America is getting older and that there are fewer to pay into the sys-

tem to support a baby boomer generation which is about to retire," Bush said. "We have a responsibility to solve problems before they become acute."

The call for private accounts is the most controversial element of Bush's vision for a reformed Social Security. Addition of payroll into a private account to be invested for retirement. Any such plan depends on a large infusion of cash to replace the tax money that would otherwise fund the government benefits.

Heavenly reward for lotto winner

\$27M jackpot goes to owner of cemetery for abandoned infants

BY GILLIAN FLACCUS
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — All too often, the ring of Debi Farris-Cifelli's cell phone means there is another abandoned newborn at the morgue, another forsaken child for her to name and bury in a shoebox-size coffin under a white cross in the California desert.

Last week, though, Farris-Cifelli — who has had to rely on donations, grants and fund-raisers to give babies a decent burial — got a very different call.

She had won the California lottery. The jackpot: \$27 million.

"Maybe it's the children saying, 'Thank you for taking care of them when nobody else would,'" Farris-Cifelli said, bubbling with laughter. "It's a gift and for which we feel an awesome responsibility."

The money could not come at a better time for Farris-Cifelli and her Garden of Angels, the tiny cemetery in the town of Calimesa where she has buried dozens of tiny children whose mothers didn't hear — or didn't care — about California's safe-haven law.

Under the 2001 law, parents have three days to abandon infants without fear of prosecution. California is one of 46 states with such a law.

Farris-Cifelli helped win passage of the law and has made it her life's work to spread the word that scared and confused parents should drop their newborns at firehouses and hospitals — not in trash cans and alleys.

She lobbies in states without such laws, talks to teens and police and has attended 12 trials of mothers accused of abandoning their infants. She also lays the dead to rest.



THE PRESS ENTERPRISE (CALIF.)/AP

Debi Farris-Cifelli and her husband, Steve, won the California SuperLotto Plus jackpot, worth \$27 million, last Saturday night in Calimesa, Calif. Debi Farris-Cifelli runs the Garden of Angels cemetery, where she provides burial for abandoned infants.

Farris-Cifelli, 49, does all that with just a three-person staff and \$172,000 annual budget covered by donations, grants, car washes and bake sales.

Now the deeply religious mother and her high school counselor husband, Steve, will receive an after-tax lump sum of nearly \$9 million. Some of the winnings will go to the couple's seven children, most to her crusade.

It was only the third time she and her husband had played the lottery.

Since the safe-haven law went into effect four years ago, only 67 babies have been safely surrendered in California. Farris-Cifelli has buried 70 babies since she began in 1996. Since the law was enacted, she has buried fewer each year — though no one knows how many have died.

This law does work, but it works when there is some kind of campaign going along with it," Farris-Cifelli said. "It just hurts me that we don't talk about it until there's a baby who's lost its life."

The state budgets about \$1.5 million for advertising — not enough to buy even one statewide TV spot, according to Andrew Roth, spokesman for the California Department of Social Services.

When someone finds a dead baby in a

three-county area around Los Angeles, the morgue knows to call Farris-Cifelli. Farris-Cifelli goes into the autopsy room alone, where she wraps each infant in a homemade quilt, cradles it and prays over it. She gives each baby a first name that is engraved on the cross above the grave. At the grave site, she releases dozens of doves under the shade of a mulberry tree.

Babies whose remains go unclaimed are cremated, and their ashes placed in a small cardboard box and saved for three years before being put in an unmarked grave by other John and Jane Does.

Farris-Cifelli and her husband are full of ideas of how to spend their new fortune: 140 annual scholarships named after abandoned babies, more efforts to educate the public, and possibly a shelter for pregnant teens.

"If the little kids up there are dancing in heaven and are happy for us, then that's the way it should be," Steve Cifelli said. "They're saying, 'We want you to do more,' and we're going to do it."

Karen Moon of Victorville, who adopted one of the first babies surrendered under the safe-haven law, sees more than coincidence in her friend's good fortune.

"Everybody wants to win the lottery, but she truly deserves to win," Moon said. "It seems like it was meant to be."

Court helps get homeless back on feet

BY MICHELLE MORGANTE
The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — In this courtroom, there is no witness box, no raised bench for the judge. The lawyers and clerks sort through files at folding tables, while dozens of defendants sit in stackable chairs.

Homeless court is now in session at the St. Vincent de Paul shelter. The public defender tries to put everyone at ease. "There's one assurance. Nobody goes into custody today."

The idea of this court and others like it is to help the homeless clear misdemeanor offenses from their record that, if left unresolved, can make them ineligible for government aid or driver's licenses — a major barrier to a normal life.

Launched at the request of homeless veterans 15 years ago, the San Diego program has grown into a model for cities across California and beyond.

Homeless men and women are often arrested or ticketed for such offenses as sleeping on the sidewalk, drinking or urinating in public, and riding mass transit without paying. The infractions become increasingly serious when fines go unpaid or defendants fail to appear in court. An outstanding warrant or unresolved misdemeanor charges can make homeless people ineligible for certain housing programs or job training.

Homeless cannot participate unless they have been referred to the court by a shelter where they have completed recovery and self-help programs.

Participation in alcohol and drug counseling, job training and other programs is credited toward their penalty, meaning nearly everyone has the case dismissed and fines cleared.

For Donna Jones, a 57-year-old former live-in aid worker, the San Diego court session will let her qualify again for a driver's license. She slipped into homelessness earlier this year after her job dried up and she sold her car to pay a bill. During the slide, a ticket for illegal use of a car pool lane, compounded by her lapsed car insurance, resulted in an arrest warrant.

The St. Vincent de Paul shelter is helping her get new job skills and build a savings account. With her new training and a driver's license, Jones expects to rebound.

Radio readers seeking additional funds

Broadcasters make newspapers, books, ads available to blind listeners

BY JENNIFER C. YATES
The Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Nancy Leverett wasn't born blind, but she has spent most of her 51 years with limited vision. Still, she manages to keep up with the world outside her view, all thanks to a special radio receiver she keeps in her kitchen.

Leverett is one of thousands of people across the country who rely on close-circuit radio services to get newspapers, magazines, books and even the latest grocery ads read to them.

"I can't just sit in the doctor's office and pick up the latest women's magazine and see what's going on," said Leverett, who lives in the Pittsburgh suburb of Mount Lebanon.

She listens to the 18-year-old Pennsylvania-based Radio Information Service, which serves about 1,000 people, charging subscribers \$20 a year. The service, with about 250 volunteers, nearly closed last month after its funding almost dried up.

With government cash becoming harder

to get, nonprofit radio reading groups across the nation are finding they need to be creative to stay on the air.

Thanks to several donors, the Pittsburgh service now has enough money to end of January, said Executive Director Laurie Anderson. But the group is looking to form a long-term partnership with a university or other group to offset costs, including the space it rents.

"It got harder for all nonprofits. It's really forcing us into looking at what we do," Anderson said. "In some ways, I think this is a good thing. We were hoping to do a long-range planning process and this has really accelerated things."

Radio reading services are typically staffed by volunteers and broadcast on a subcarrier channel of an FM radio station. Listeners must have a special, pre-tuned radio receiver to pick up the broadcast.

According to the International Association of Audio Information Services — a group of independently operated reading services — more than 1 million Americans over 40 are blind and 2.4 million are visually

impaired. And there are dozens of other health and cognitive conditions, from dyslexia to macular degeneration to Parkinson's disease, that affect a person's ability to read.

The radio services are vital, listeners and operators say, because they can present information over the radio that visually impaired people can't get anywhere else.

Some telephone call-in services or computer-based programs are available for the visually impaired, but those services are often impractical or too expensive.

In Pittsburgh, Joyce Dribben has been listening to a radio reading service since 1990. Blind since birth, the 63-year-old former social worker said the reading of the local newspapers, including the grocery store ads, are especially helpful.

"As a blind person, when I go into the store and I need assistance, they're not going to have time to go up and down every aisle and tell me what they've got," Dribben said. "It allows me to be far more independent. I like the idea of being able to do what I want, when I want."



Tracy O'Neill, a reader at Radio Information Services, reads over the newspaper before a live broadcast last month in Pittsburgh. The service broadcasts the reading of newspapers, magazines, and current advertisements to the visually impaired.



Parking enforcement agent Mary Moore accepts a toy Wednesday at a parking violations line at City Hall in Boston. To help boost donations to the U.S. Marines Toys for Tots campaign, the city allows people to settle their parking debts with toys of equal or greater value than their tickets.

Parking violations turn into bonanza for Toys for Tots

Toys as good as money for paying tickets

BY KAREN TESTA
The Associated Press

BOSTON — For a limited time, the city of Boston is accepting a new form of payment for parking tickets: Cabbage Patch Kids, Morphians, even Mega Bloks.

To help boost donations to the Marine Corps Toys for Tots campaign, city officials are allowing motorists to pay their fines with toys equal in value to the amount owed. Offenders must produce a sales receipt.

Marcia Harris showed up at City Hall on Wednesday with stuffed animals, a yo-yo and other toys to pay off her \$36 violation for an expired meter.

She said she was initially irritated to get a ticket just "20 seconds" after her meter ran out. The meter maid handed her a piece of paper informing her of the offer.

"I thought the paper would say I could go protest at City Hall," Harris said. "This was much better. I would spend two-for-one. I think this is such a great idea."

Tickets issued Dec. 1, 2 or 3 are eligible for the program, includ-

ing those issued for public safety reasons, such as parking in front of a handicapped ramp, in a crosswalk or in a fire lane. The city is accepting toys until Friday.

"I think it should go longer — maybe any ticket in December," said Theresa Labriola, who settled a \$20 violation for an expired inspection sticker with two Groovy Girl dolls. "It just takes 10 minutes out of your day, and it makes you feel better about getting a ticket."

Zoinks!, a toy store in Faneuil Hall, just across the street from City Hall, is offering a 15 percent discount to customers who show a Boston parking ticket.

Marine Sgt. Maj. Rudy Wieners said he knew of no other city in the country that offers a similar ticket exchange to benefit Toys for Tots.

Boston has been running the program since 1999.

"These toys go to needy kids. And it's bad enough to get a ticket, but at least you feel the money is going to something that means something rather than being thrown in a big pot up there in Boston," he said.

After stroke, Clark 'hopeful' he'll help bring in new year

BY DEREK ROSE
New York Daily News

NEW YORK — Dick Clark was in the hospital recovering from a mild stroke Wednesday, still hopeful he would make it to Times Square for his New Year's Eve special.

The 75-year-old entertainment legend suffered the stroke Monday and was recuperating at an undisclosed Los Angeles-area hospital, his spokesman said.

"The doctors tell me I should be back in the swing of things before too long, so I'm hopeful to be able to make it to Times Square to help lead the country in bringing in the new year once again," Clark said in a statement.

The "American Bandstand" pioneer is scheduled to host "Dick Clark's New Year's Rockin' Eve 2005" on ABC for what would be the 33rd consecutive year.

Clark's spokesman, Paul Shefrin, called the stroke mild but declined to say whether his speech had been affected.

"The question in my mind is, does he have any speech deficits?" said Dr. Albert Favate, a neurologist at St. Vincent's Hospital in New York City.

If so — or if Clark has suffered facial disfigurement or has trouble standing — the three weeks until New Year's Eve might not be sufficient time to recover, Favate said.

Clark's Dec. 31 special airs on ABC but is independently produced by his production company, which also makes the NBC drama "American Dreams."

"Our thoughts and prayers are with Dick," said Jeff Zucker, president of NBC Universal Television Group.

Clark made his name after "Bandstand" went national in the late 1950s, and he began hosting the New Year's Eve special to ring in 1972.

"I had no idea I'd be standing out there 30 years," Clark told the New York Daily News in 2001. "I always look forward to it. It's an occasion... and for New Yorkers it's part of everyone's life."



Dick Clark at last year's New Year's celebrations in Times Square, New York. Clark was hospitalized this week after suffering a mild stroke.

Martha Stewart to return to television after jail time

BY DAVID BAUDER
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Martha Stewart may still be in the clinic, but it appears there's no caging her appeal as television's domestic diva.

Stewart will revive her daily homemaking show next September, it was announced Wednesday — this time before a live audience, with celebrity guests and the help of "The Apprentice" producer Mark Burnett.

Stewart, not allowed to conduct business in prison, was not involved in the deal with NBC Universal to syndicate the show but is "very pleased," said Susan Levy, president of Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia.

NBC-owned stations in 14 major cities have already agreed to air the daytime show, and deals will be sought in other cities.

"Millions of people feel that Martha got a raw deal," Burnett said. "America loves comeback stories."

Stewart and her former stockbroker were convicted in March of lying to investigators about why she

sold ImClone Systems Inc. stock in 2001. Stewart, who's appealing her conviction, is serving a five-month sentence at a minimum-security federal prison for women in Alderson, W.Va. She'll be released in March.

For five months after that, she will be fitted with an ankle bracelet and confined to her Bedford, N.Y., estate, but allowed to conduct business for 48 hours a week.

Her old show, "Martha Stewart Living," was put on hiatus last summer after its 11th season. She will tread familiar territory on the yet-to-be-titled new show, including cooking, entertaining, decorating and home renovation.

Burnett said he watched several hours of outtakes from "Martha Stewart Living" and often found them more entertaining and reflective of her personality than the show itself. Interaction with a studio audience and guests will add a new element to what she does, he said.

Judging by celebrities who turned out at Stewart's trial to offer support — Rosie O'Donnell, Bill Cosby and Brian Dennehy — Burnett said he expected many to be willing to appear as guests.

Vote costs job

NEW YORK — A Board of Elections employee has been fired for defying a supervisor's order and leaving her post to vote on Election Day.

Hanford L. Pinette, 73, removed breathing lines after doctors removed the mechanical breathing apparatus at Lucerne Hospital on Wednesday, said his wife, Alice Pinette.

Orlando Regional Healthcare System Inc. said the military veteran was in a terminal state, could not make decisions for himself and was unlikely to survive. He was being kept alive by a ven-

Living-will death

ORLANDO, Fla. — A man whose living will led to a hospital to seek permission from a judge to pull his life support died after doctors removed his ventilator.

Pinette, 73, removed breathing lines after doctors removed the mechanical breathing apparatus at Lucerne Hospital on Wednesday, said his wife, Alice Pinette.

Orlando Regional Healthcare System Inc. said the military veteran was in a terminal state, could not make decisions for himself and was unlikely to survive. He was being kept alive by a ven-

tilator, a dialysis machine and medication.

Seat belt ruling

WASHINGTON — All passenger vehicles sold in the United States must have shoulder and lap belts in the rear center seat by the 2008 model year under a federal rule issued Wednesday.

Three out of four new passenger cars already have the belts, but only half of pickups and sport utility vehicles do.

NHTSA estimates the rule will save up to 23 lives and prevent up to 495 injuries each year.

From wire reports

FACES

Living the fiddle

Alison Krauss feels kinship with music after 20 years of bluegrass

BY JOHN GEROME
The Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — For many entertainers, growing older is a liability and age is best kept a secret.

Not for Alison Krauss.

The 33-year-old says the years help deepen the well she draws from to sing about other people's lives.

"I think the older I get, the more I'm able to relate to the songs I'm singing," she says. "I've been doing this since I was a teenager, and I had a very nice childhood. [But] you're not going to sound like you've lived much if you haven't."

Last month, she and her bluegrass band Union Station released their latest album, "Lonely Runs Both Ways."

Krauss describes it as their most emotional work yet, with songs that explore transition ("Goodbye Is All We Have"), lost love and loneliness ("Borderline"), and spirituality ("A Living Prayer").

Her somber, breathy vocals come across like a gray November day on the Gillian Welch/David Rawlings composition "Wouldn't Be So Bad" and on other ballads such as "Doesn't Have to Be This Way" and "If I Didn't Know Any Better."

The album's title is taken from the lyrics to "Borderline," and it sets the tone: "So you're on your own / Looking down the road / That goes only by one name / And you don't need the signs / To see lonely still runs both ways."

Krauss' band keeps things from getting too morose. There's the uptempo Jerry Douglas-penned instrumental "Unionhouse Branch" and Dan Tyminski's twangy delivery on covers of Woody Guthrie's "Pastures of Plenty" and Del McCoury's "Rain, Rain Go Away."

Ron Block sings on the self-penned "I Don't Have to Live This Way."

Four of the 15 songs were written by Krauss' friend Robert Lee Castleman, a

former truck driver whose "The Lucky One," "Let Me Touch You for Awhile," and "Forget About It" were previously popularized by Krauss.

"They all sound like classics but they don't sound like anything else, which doesn't make any sense," Krauss said of Castleman's work. "But the next time the chorus comes around you know it. And you think you've known it your whole life."

Krauss spoke at her management office while her 5-year-old son, Sam, played in the next room. She was dressed casually in denim overalls and a T-shirt with her hair pulled up and wearing little makeup — more like a busy mom than a superstar singer who's won more Grammys than any female artist (17, one more than Aretha Franklin).

"He goes with me everywhere, and that's awesome," she says of Sam. "I thought 'Oh my God, how lucky I am that I can do that.'"

Krauss grew up a fan of classic rock bands like AC/DC and Aerosmith in Champaign, Ill., about 140 miles south of Chicago, and began playing violin at her mother's suggestion.

"My mom and dad wanted to put my brother and I in everything — art classes, sports. One of the things we were going to do is take an instrument for five years, and she chose the violin for me because my brother had the piano already. They bought me a book, and I listened to records. I made a tape of whatever song I wanted to learn and would play it like 35 times."

She soon was winning ribbons and trophies at bluegrass fiddle contests. She began performing in a bluegrass group when she was only 12, and by 16 released her first album, "Too Late to Cry."

As well as anyone, Union Station has managed to stay true to its bluegrass roots while appealing to country and even pop listeners.

"They've recorded the traditional 'Down to the River to Pray' and Ralph Stanley's 'Heaven's Bright Shore' as well as Bad



Bluegrass musician Alison Krauss performs on the fiddle with her band Union Station at the FleetBoston Pavilion in Boston in this May 31 photo. AP

Company's "Oh, Atlanta" and the Allman Brothers' "Midnight Rider."

In the process, they've sold 7 million albums — an extraordinary number for a bluegrass band.

"They've turned a lot of people on to the music and caused a lot of people to want to go out and learn how to play," said Dan Hays, executive director of the International Bluegrass Music Association.

Of their crossover appeal, Hays said: "I don't think they're purposely trying to make music to appeal to a certain audience. I think they're just making the best music they know how to make and the music that's in

their hearts. The music is what's most important to them. If it goes platinum, they're all the happier for it, but it's not their motivation."

While purists may scoff at the band's instrumentation, choice of material or her most commercial success, Krauss doesn't worry.

"It's not that I don't think, 'Oh we're going to get nailed for that one,' because I think about that, too," she says. "But the people that I want to impress are those guys I play with every night. If they like the kind of tunes I may bring to the table — and I know Ron [Block] feels the same way — if they like it, we're OK."

Red carpet treatment for Jones Reynolds

There's just no keeping Star Jones Reynolds off Hollywood's red carpets.

Jones Reynolds will chat with nominees and guests as they arrive at the Beverly Hilton when she hosts E! Entertainment Television's two-hour "Live From the Red Carpet: The 2005 Golden Globe Awards" on Jan. 16.

"I have watched [the show] for years as a fan," she said in a statement Tuesday. "To be able to participate in all the fun and excitement now as the host is a dream come true."

Jones Reynolds, who has a daytime gig as co-host of ABC's "The View," first stepped on the carpet for E! in September at the Emmy Awards.

She replaced Joan and Melissa Rivers after the mother-daughter duo took their acerbic fashion commentary to the TV guide Channel in July.

Jones Reynolds married banker Al Reynolds in a star-studded Park Avenue ceremony in New York last month.



Jones Reynolds

Roberts richest of the rich

Julia Roberts is a mommy with big money.

The 37-year-old actress, who recently gave birth to twins, tops The Hollywood Reporter's annual list of the highest-paid actresses. Her paycheck per film? \$20 million.

"Charlie's Angels" star Cameron Diaz, also with a \$20 million price tag, is ranked second because her face was missing from the big screen this year (though her voice was featured in the animated "Shrek 2").

Nicole Kidman, Reese Witherspoon and Drew Barrymore, worth \$15 million each, filled the top five, followed by Halle Berry (\$14 million), Sandra Bullock and Angelina Jolie (both earning \$12 million), and \$15 million per film, and Renee Zellweger and Jennifer Lopez (\$12 million each).

The Women in Entertainment issue also includes a paycheck tally of "Five Breakout Performers." Kirsten Dunst is No. 1 at \$8 million, followed by Lindsay Lohan (\$7.5 million), Jessica Alba (\$3 million), Mandy Moore (\$3 million)



Roberts

and Sarah Michelle Gellar (\$2 million).

Casualties in 'War of the Worlds'

A crew that was filming scenes for Steven Spielberg's "War of the Worlds," based on H.G. Wells' novel about an invasion from outer space, lost a few extras in the Connecticut River last weekend.

Two adult-size mannequins got free and drifted south down the river during filming on the riverbank in Windsor, Conn., said Windsor police Lt. Shannon Haynes.

Despite a search by the movie production's water safety crew, the mannequins weren't recovered, and other police departments along the riverfront were alerted.

"We just wanted them to know that if they got any calls about bodies floating in the river," Haynes said Monday. "But we never heard anything about them being found."

Spielberg and star Tom Cruise shot sequences across the state last week, including several scenes at an old



Spielberg

chemical plant in Naugatuck. Stories and photos from The Associated Press

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- (XTRA:3-10Mbps/FINE:6Mbps/STD:3Mbps); JPEG (1280x960,DPOF compat)
- AV In/output
- External microphone jack
- PC connecting terminal USB 2.0(480Mbps)
- 69mm wide
- And more!

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Customers getting the hang of plasma TVs

Retailers expect to at least double sales of high-end television sets

BY JOSHUA FRED
The Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Hanging stockings by the chimney with care? Retailers hope that St. Nicholas soon will be there — to hang a 42-inch plasma-screen TV.

As prices drop for high-end televisions, sales are leaping.

Retailers expect to sell twice as many plasma-screen televisions and three times as many LCD televisions this year, according to the Consumer Electronics Association.

And with new sellers such as Dell Inc. and Wal-Mart Stores Inc. now in the market, retailers are looking for new ways to differentiate themselves.

Dell and some other sellers will deliver a TV free of shipping charges. Wal-Mart, competing on price, offers a 42-inch plasma TV for \$2,000 at a third of its stores, about \$1,000 less than many other sellers. Many Best Buy Inc. stores will send a technician to visit prospective TV buyers at home, at no charge, to measure and suggest other products.

"That has been a huge difference between a guy buying just a TV and a guy buying a complete solution," said Joe Brandt,

the home theater manager at a Best Buy store in the Minneapolis suburb of Maple Grove.

And that "complete solution" — such as a sound system and DVD player — can be a way for Best Buy and others to grab sales it might have missed by selling just the TV.

Brandt said sales of plasma televisions were brisk during last year's holiday season, but really took off six to eight months ago.

After struggling to keep up with demand last year, Best Buy has increased the number of high-end televisions for sale this year by 50 percent.

Shoppers will "see prices almost at a minimum of 30 percent lower than they saw last year in flat-panel TVs," said Lee Simons, the chief buyer for the Best Buy.

Wal-Mart is selling plasma TVs in about a third of its stores, including its own ILO brand, which it rolled out in May. The company, which made its name on low prices, wants customers to think of stores for higher-end products, too.

Many retailers are advertising lower prices on older technologies such as so-called "enhanced definition" and rear-projection TVs, hoping to lure customers



Potential high-end television buyers relax as they watch a flat panel plasma model at the Best Buy store last month in Maple Grove, Minn. Retailers expect sales for flat panel televisions to double from last year.

into the store and then sell them newer, more expensive models, said Ross Rubin, director of industry analysis at market researcher NPD Techworld.

While Best Buy is growing number of its customers understand the differences between different flat-screen televisions, Rubin said manufacturers and

stores still have plenty of educating to do.

Insonic, he said, recently sent workers into New York-area P.C. Richard & Son stores with that in mind.

Plasma screens are considered the most vibrant, and are often the most expensive. Liquid-crystal displays are the television version of the screen commonly used on laptop computers. They are slightly thinner and cheaper than plasmas. Also available are DLP, or Digital Light Processing, televisions that are cheaper than LCD or plasma, but not quite as bright or compact.

TV-maker Westinghouse Digital Electronics recently cut prices by \$500 each for its 27- and 30-inch LCD TVs, to \$1,199 and \$1,699, respectively.

"A year ago, it was a cool product, a gadget, a very expensive gadget," said Douglas Woo, the company's president. Now, high-end TVs are a routine replacement for older TVs, he said.

Woo said retailers may not be making the 50-percent margins they got on the early, most-expensive high-end TVs, but they're making better money than on the traditional sets.

"LCD TV is right in the sweet spot for retailers," Woo said.

With prices expected to fall further next year as new factories come on line, stores may need to work harder to attract buyers who might otherwise wait. Woo, in fact, called 2004 "still a set-up year," and predicted the technology won't really take off until next year or even 2006.

Indeed, traditional cathode-ray televisions still make up the majority of TVs sold, according to the CEA.

Brandon Martin, 27, held a blender under his arm at the Best Buy in Maple Grove while he eyed what he really wanted — a new flat-panel TV. But Martin said he wasn't sure it's worth the money.

"I think they do a real good job of making it seem necessary," Martin said of the high-end sets. "It's just TV."

WEDNESDAY'S MARKET SUMMARY

INDEXES					
High	Low	Name	Last	Net	% YTD
52-week				chg	52-week
High	Low			chg	High
10,753.15	9,760.40	Dow Jones Industrials	10,494.21	+54.25	+5.1
3,748.05	2,743.46	Dow Jones Transportation	3,723.53	+54.27	+1.8
235.20	252.47	Dow Jones Utilities	238.36	-7.1	-2.9
7,108.61	6,087.23	NASDAQ Composite	7,029.97	+15.25	+0.2
1,646.3	1,168.38	Amex Index	1,386.62	-2.89	-0.2
2,164.63	1,528.82	NYSE Composite	2,126.11	+1.45	+0.1
1,197.46	1,053.41	S&P 500	1,130.81	+1.54	+0.1
549.29	540.00	MidCap	562.71	+7.79	+1.4
634.24	515.59	Russell 2000	631.16	+5.66	+0.9
11,786.44	10,442.15	DJ Wilshire 2000	11,627.01	+454.81	+4.1

NYSE			AMEX			NASDAQ		
Most Active	(% chg)	(% chg)	Most Active	(% chg)	(% chg)	Most Active	(% chg)	(% chg)
Apple	3.75	+0.38	SPDR	429.2	+0.8	Microsoft	4.98	+1.1
Northern	3.76	+0.3	SPDR	302.97	+0.3	Microsoft	918.09	+0.2
General	1.52	+0.1	SPDR	484.4	+0.3	Microsoft	3.24	+0.2
Amazon	1.52	+0.1	SPDR	871.79	+0.3	Microsoft	773.04	+0.2
Amazon	1.52	+0.1	SPDR	871.79	+0.3	Microsoft	773.04	+0.2
Dynegy	1.479	+0.2	DIA	70.89	+0.1	Microsoft	249.09	+0.1
General	1.479	+0.2	DIA	70.89	+0.1	Microsoft	249.09	+0.1
General	1.479	+0.2	DIA	70.89	+0.1	Microsoft	249.09	+0.1
Vimco	1.479	+0.2	DIA	70.89	+0.1	Microsoft	249.09	+0.1

KEY DEFENSE STOCKS					KEY MUTUAL FUNDS				
Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	% YTD	Name	NAV	Chg	% YTD
Atlantic Technology	10	64.68	44	+2.1	+4.7	Fidelity Investor Growth	37.86	+1.1	+2.8
Boeing	30	15	52.88	+0.5	+0.9	Fidelity Investor Growth	37.86	+1.1	+2.8
Boeing	30	15	52.88	+0.5	+0.9	Fidelity Investor Growth	37.86	+1.1	+2.8
Boeing	30	15	52.88	+0.5	+0.9	Fidelity Investor Growth	37.86	+1.1	+2.8
Boeing	30	15	52.88	+0.5	+0.9	Fidelity Investor Growth	37.86	+1.1	+2.8
Boeing	30	15	52.88	+0.5	+0.9	Fidelity Investor Growth	37.86	+1.1	+2.8
Boeing	30	15	52.88	+0.5	+0.9	Fidelity Investor Growth	37.86	+1.1	+2.8
Boeing	30	15	52.88	+0.5	+0.9	Fidelity Investor Growth	37.86	+1.1	+2.8
Boeing	30	15	52.88	+0.5	+0.9	Fidelity Investor Growth	37.86	+1.1	+2.8
Boeing	30	15	52.88	+0.5	+0.9	Fidelity Investor Growth	37.86	+1.1	+2.8

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates		
Japanese yen (Dec. 10)	100.00	
South Korean won (Dec. 9)	1,022.00	
Euro (Dec. 9)	1.3674	
British pound (Dec. 9)	1.3378	
Commercial rates		
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3770	
British pound	1.5934	
Canada (Dollar)	0.7182	
Denmark (Krone)	6.9026	
Egypt (Pound)	45.113	
Euro	1.3332	
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7598	
Hungary (Forint)	167.90	
Israel (Shekel)	4.3271	
Israel (New)	1.6444	
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2946	
Norway (Krone)	4.7501	
Philippines (Peso)	55.609	
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	2.936	
Singapore (Dollar)	1.6454	
Taiwan (Dollar)	3.8820	
Switzerland (Franc)	1.1495	
Thailand (Baht)	53.76	
Turkey (Lira)	1,388,869.00	
(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For non-currency exchange rates in Germany, please check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are inter-bank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to the dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars to the euro, and the euro, which is dollars to the euro.)		

Cents and Sensibility

Money tip of the day

Finding online bargains

BY NANCY DUNNAN

A new Web site, www.shopping.com, now combines Deal-Time.com's shopping search engine with Epin.com's consumer reviews and ratings.

It's a great way to find the least expensive and the best among the many items for sale

on the Internet. The site covers all sorts of things from books, cars and clothing to jewelry, kids and family and office supplies.

Perfect for holiday shopping!

Financial adviser, economist and security analyst Nancy Dunnan is the author of "How to Invest \$50 to \$500 a Month" and "The 50-50 System for the Online Investor" from theonlineinvestor.com

PRECIOUS METALS		
New York Merc exchange		
Gold	\$473.20	
Silver	\$7.102	
INTEREST RATES		
Prime rate	5.00	
Discount rate	5.00	
Federal funds market rate	2.00	
3-month bill	2.24	
30-year bond	4.75	
Sources: The Associated Press, Bank of America		

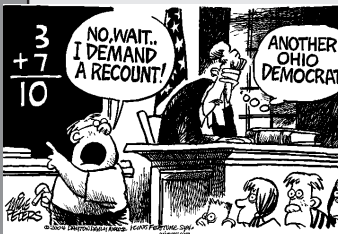
Looking at the news

A weekly sampling of U.S. editorial cartoons

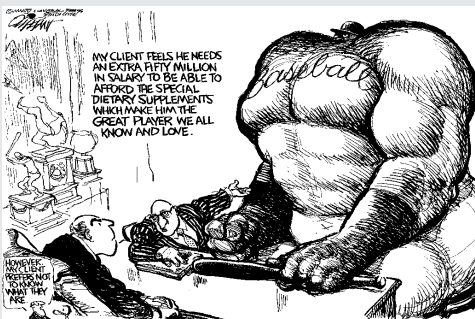
TERRORISTS MAY USE FOOD TO ATTACK AMERICA



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PAT OLIPHANT/Universal Press Syndicate

Yokosuka lights up annual Festival of Trees

Hundreds gather on base for community holiday showcase

BY JULIANA GITTNER

Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — Members of the First Class Association from the USS Gary found just the right lights to make their tree unique.

"I said, 'we need to be a little creative,'" said Boatswain's

Mate 1st Class Tony Cloud, who spearheaded the ship's entry.

"I knew no one would have blue ones."

He looked off base for his decorations.

The gang from Navy Facilities Engineering Command Far East used symbols from their job — a hardhat for a tree topper, cut-out tools and yellow "caution" tape.

"It's getting into the holiday spirit," said Sam Roundtree, the business manager at Navfac, a new command that took over for Public Works this summer.

Carrying on a long Yokosuka tradition, a few hundred people from more than 40 commands came together Wednesday to partake in a potluck dinner and create the centerpiece for the base Festival of Trees, a community showcase that runs over the weekend.

Each command received a tree.

Some used traditional ornaments while others, like Navfac, used symbols representing what they do.

Yokosuka's Fleet Imaging Center decked its tree with rolls of glittery film and camera equipment boxes underneath.

The Boy Scouts had tiny Scout figurines and the Seventh Fleet incorporated flags from countries throughout the fleet's area of operations.

The festival is a chance for the community to celebrate together — first as they decorate and then during the two-day festival, which is open to everyone.

"It's a great time,"

Roundtree said.

"You do fellowship with the other commands and something nice. I mean, decorating a tree — who doesn't love doing that?"

Sam Roundtree

Business manager, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan

gives us a chance to advertise, to do something that's unique to us," said Cmdr. Brant Pickrell, Navfac's executive officer.

Just hours after pulling back into port, several servicemembers from the USS Vandegrift were sprucing up their tree with decorations made by crewmembers' spouses and children.

Crew members weren't sure if they'd be back in time for the decorating. They just made it.

The festival, said Command Master Chief Donald Snider, "helps people ... get to know each other. It's for the entire family."

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PHOTOS BY JIM SCHULZ/Stars and Stripes

Susan Marin, wife of the USS Gary commanding officer, decorates the command's Christmas tree at Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan. Yokosuka residents come together each year to decorate Christmas trees from each of the facility's commands.



Above: Chuck Johnson, USS Cushing executive officer, makes a final adjustment to the command's Christmas tree

Right: Cmdr. Brant Pickrell, Naval Facility Engineering Command Far East executive officer, decks the command's Christmas tree with construction items signifying its purpose on the base.



Iwakuni clinic hosts visit

The Iwakuni Marine Corps Air Station, Japan, French Medical Clinic will hold its annual Christmas party for the Akebono Orphanage at 10 a.m. on Saturday.

The children will be entertained with gifts, food and games.

Iwakuni officer awarded

Lt. Col. Yori R. Escalante, commanding officer of Marine Wing Support Squadron 171, was awarded the Bronze Star for his actions during operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

Brig. Gen. Duane D. Thiessen, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing commanding general, presented the award Nov. 29, according to a base news report released Thursday.

"I was speechless. I was totally sur-

prised," stated Escalante, a Houston native, in the report.

Escalante, who has served in the Marine Corps for 18 years, received the Bronze Star for his service as plans officer, future operations officer and current operations officer for 1st Force Service Support Group in Tikrit, Iraq, where he planned logistics from June 2002 to April 2004.

According to the official Bronze Star citation, the report stated, Escalante prepared frequent operations plan refinements to ensure that 1st Force Service Support Group units were always in position to support developing combat scenarios.

Yokota Players' holiday plays

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — The Yokota Players are staging holiday plays for the family on Friday and Saturday at the Taiyo Recreation Center.

Friday's show is set for 7 p.m., while the troupe will deliver performances at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Saturday. Admission is free.

E-mail yokota_players@yahoo.com for more information.

Chamorro Christmas pageant

The story of the Nativity is featured in the Chamorro Christmas Pageant at 7 p.m. each night through Tuesday at Ypao Beach Amphitheater in Tumon, Guam.

Sponsored by local schools and businesses, the program includes a live Nativity scene and a telling of the Christmas story in the Chamorro language. Choirs from various schools perform traditional Christmas carols, including some in Chamorro.

Each night's performance lasts about 35 minutes, but the Nativity scene remains in place long enough for those attending to shoot photographs.

Sasebo school performance

Jack N. Darby Elementary School in the Harjo Housing Village at Sasebo Naval Base, Japan, is to present a holiday show in the Village Theater on Tuesday with the school's drama club, choir and student writers at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. for parents and others.

The drama and choir groups collaborated to produce the show. The choir will sing international holiday selections. The drama group created a play based on the songs using a Christmas Eve setting in which grandparents talk to their grandchildren about celebrations around the world.

Darby students who entered writing contest wrote some of the stories in the production. Winners will be announced at the performances.

From staff reports



PHOTOS BY JIM SCHULZ/Stars and Stripes

A Japanese soldier from the Japanese Ground Self-Defense Force mans his machine gun during the joint Guard and Protect exercise Tuesday with airmen at Yokota Air Base. The exercise was to simulate protecting the installation from an enemy attack.

Joint security exercise a success

Yokota airmen, JGSDF troops simulate fending off attack on base

BY VINCE LITTLE

Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — Yokota security forces personnel and the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force on Thursday closed out "Guard and Protect," a four-day joint exercise that tested their ability to defend the installation from attack by terrorists or a foreign nation.

The session, which began Monday, included about 200 members of the JGSDF's 1st Division and 80 airmen from the 374th Security Forces Squadron. It was the fifth installment in the ongoing series of force-protection drills designed to support Japan's Self-Defense Law.

The measure, revised in October 2001, makes the JGSDF responsible for protecting U.S. military facilities during contingency operations. Among the bases covered under the law are Yokota, Misawa Air Base, Camp Zama, Yokosuka Naval Base, Atsugi Naval Air Facility, Sasebo Naval Base and Iwakuni Marine Corps Air Station, which staged a similar exercise last week as part of Active Shield.

"It's the first time we've conducted this drill," said 1st Lt. Warren Comer, a 374th Wing spokesman. "We are hoping this exercise is scheduled yearly so that we may practice communication and execution with the JGSDF, thus improving our techniques."

"The Guard and Protect exercise gives members of the Japanese Ground Self-Defense Forces from the 1st Division and 374th Security Forces Squadron an opportunity to test both units' ability to defend Yokota Air Base

from attack by a foreign nation. The JGSDF would augment Yokota's forces should offensive action be undertaken by a foreign country against Japan and the U.S. government."

Within the exercise's scenarios, participants rehearsed incident response while

keeping Yokota operational for the receipt of additional supplies, military personnel and equipment that would aid in Japan's defense.

A significant portion of Guard and Protect unfolded on the base's northern side, which borders Mizuho Town. Most operations were held during daytime hours, Comer said, in an effort to reduce the noise impact on surrounding communities.

Inside the gates, sharpening communication between the U.S. and Japanese forces was a primary exercise objective, Comer said, aimed at fostering greater cooperation during a real-world crisis.

"We wanted to better understand the varying tactics and strategies employed by the JGSDF and our security forces," he added. "Our hope is that both will learn more about each other. We're taking this opportunity to see how each group solves problems and communicates them to their leaders."

"This will allow us to better prepare a more cooperative plan and ensure that communication is understood at all levels. In doing this, both forces ensure success if any future conflict arises."

Neither side encountered a major problem during the inaugural joint exercise, he said. Yokota officials labeled the debut a success.

"The U.S. and Japan have had an outstanding relationship for decades," Comer said. "This exercise is a continuation of that cooperation, helping us face possible future threats in the mutual defense of Japan."

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Soldiers from the Japanese Ground Self-Defense Force check an "enemy" during an exercise at Yokota Air Base. Japan's Self-Defense Law calls for the JGSDF to protect U.S. military facilities during contingency operations. The inaugural Guard and Protect exercise was deemed a success.

Navy: Piece from Atsugi Hornet fell through roof

BY JENNIFER H. SVAN
AND HANA KUSUMOTO

Stars and Stripes

A tiny aircraft piece that tore a hole in the roof of a Japanese industrial building last weekend near Atsugi, Japan, belonged to an F/A-18C Hornet assigned to the USS Kitty Hawk's Carrier Air Wing 5, Navy officials confirmed Thursday evening.

Lt. Cmdr. John Bernard, Carrier Group 5 spokesman, said air wing officials traced the metal object to the F/A-18C by matching part numbers to maintenance records.

Measuring 2 inches by 3.6 inches, the fragment was found on the roof of Oiles Corporation in Fujisawa city, about 4 miles south of Atsugi. It was discovered after a repairman was called to fix the building's roof, which started leaking over the weekend, a Fujisawa city spokesman said. The leak was from a 4-by-6-inch hole created by the impact of the aircraft part, which weighed about 8.5 ounces, the city official said, noting the piece bore a series of numbers and letters.

"It's not known exactly when the part hit the roof, officials said.

Bernard said air wing officials still are investigating the incident to try to pinpoint from which F/A-18C the debris fell and why.

"I don't know if we will be able to determine that," he said.

The Kitty Hawk's F/A-18s operate out of Atsugi Naval Air Facility near Tokyo.

The stray part was a shielding component for the wing and mounts on an aircraft, Bernard said.

Oiles Corporation called the Fujisawa city office earlier this week after discovering the metal object, and city officials notified Kanagawa Prefectural Office and Yokohama Defense Facilities Administration Bureau, according to the Fujisawa city official. Bernard said the Navy learned of the incident Tuesday and immediately sent air wing representatives to the Fujisawa factory to determine what the object was.

"It's uncommon for any part to fall off an aircraft," Bernard said. "The Navy takes its safety record very seriously. That safety record includes making sure things don't fall. We would be very poor stewards of the environment ... and of other people's safety if we didn't take very seriously things falling off airplanes."

"It's not a situation to be taken lightly," he said, "and it's not."

Fujisawa city officials submitted a letter of protest this week to Atsugi Naval Air Facility Commander Capt. Reed Eckstrom and Yokohama DFAB officials.

"Fortunately, although there were no injuries, the incident could have led to an accident that could have endangered lives," the letter stated.

Bernard said it's unlikely any Hornets would be grounded. At this point in the investigation, "we have no reason to believe that we would" do so, he said.

Fujisawa city officials said two years ago, a falling part from an airplane assigned to Atsugi NAF put a hole in the roof of a private garage.

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Alamo letter auction

TX SAN ANTONIO — A copy of the letter written by the Texas commander at the battle of the Alamo pleading for backup and pledging "victory or death" was auctioned for \$299,200.

The letter from William Barrett Travis, one of only four known copies, was sold along with another letter that later announced the defenders had lost the March 1836 battle, said Lauren Gioia, a spokeswoman for Sotheby's. The second letter was auctioned for \$78,000.

Both letters were removed from a private collection being auctioned in June when a retired dealer of historic Texas items questioned whether they rightfully belonged to the Texas State Library.

Volunteer scam artist

PA PHILADELPHIA — A Red Cross employee and two other people were accused of stealing the identities of about 40 blood donors and using the information to obtain about \$268,000 in cash and merchandise.

In 2002 and 2003, Red Cross data entry clerk Danae Baker, 33, of Collingswood, N.J., filched names, addresses, dates of birth, Social Security numbers, telephone numbers and places of employment from the computer records of people who had participated in corporate blood drives in Philadelphia, U.S. Attorney Patrick Meehan said.

Heidi J. McCoy III, 33, and Karynn R. Long, 36, of Dayton, Ohio, then used the information to obtain credit, cash counterfeit checks and get bank loans, Meehan said.

Justice — 20 years late

NC WINSTON-SALEM — A man will plead guilty to killing a woman in 1984, a crime that wrongly sent another man to prison for 18 years, his attorney said.

Willard E. Brown, 44, will plead guilty to the murder, rape and kidnapping of Deborah Sykes in exchange for one life sentence. The plea agreement, announced by public defender Pete Clary, allows Brown to avoid the possibility of a death sentence.

Brown will also plead guilty to a robbery charge and receive a sentence of 10 years, to be served in addition to the life sentence. A 10-year-old state law abolished parole in such murder cases.

But Brown will be eligible for parole under sentencing laws in place at the time of Sykes' murder.

Elephant moving day

MI DETROIT — Winky and Wanda, two aging, artistic elephants, will spend their retirement in the foothills of California's Sierra Nevada mountains, away from the cramped, cold Detroit Zoo.

After months of wrangling, Detroit Zoo director Ron Kagan reached an agreement with two other zoos and an accreditation group to send Winky and Wanda to California's Performing Animal Welfare Society sanctuary for a milder climate and more space.



Wanda, 46, has arthritis and 51-year-old Winky has foot problems. Both have surpassed the average 45-year life expectancy for Asian elephants in captivity in North America.

Party-house lawsuit

CA BERKELEY — First they flung chunks of a cooked pig at passing cars. Then another resident of the student housing co-op beheaded a chicken with garden shears, said shocked neighbors.

And a few months back, a guy on the rooftop deck was heard yelling, "Where's the heroin?"

Le Chateau is the University of California's own Animal House, its neighbors say, and they want a court to force the landlord to pay them damages for their years of suffering through raucous naked pool parties, nighttime bongo drumming and piles of rat-friendly garbage.

Twenty-one people are asking for a total of \$105,000 in small-claims court — \$5,000 each — arguing that the communal complex of three buildings has been a public nuisance since the University Students Cooperative Association bought it in 1977.

Religious float banned

CO DENVER — An attorney has offered to explore a lawsuit on behalf of a pastor whose church was barred from entering a Christmas float in Den-

ver's Parade of Lights.

"If he has an interest in carrying it to the next level, we're ready," said Mike Norton, lawyer for the Alliance Defense Fund, which takes on religious liberty cases primarily for Christian clients.

Morrison wanted to enter a float featuring multicultural Christian themes and a Merry Christmas message. Parade officials told a representative from Morrison's church, the 4,000-member Faith Bible Chapel, that religious messages aren't allowed because they might offend others.

Teens run over by SUV

FL ST. AUGUSTINE — A woman ran over two teenage brothers after they accidentally hit her sport utility vehicle with the golf ball they were bouncing in a parking lot, officials said, leaving one of the boys with life-threatening injuries.

Isiah Grayer, 14, and his 16-year-old twin stepbrothers, Justin and Jamel Marshman, were bouncing the golf ball in a shopping center parking lot when it went astray and struck a sport utility vehicle driven by Kathy Feagans Allen, 47, St. Johns County sheriff's Deputy Greg Suchy said.

Suchy said no damage was done, and the boys apologized and began to walk away. Allen started to drive away, but suddenly made a U-turn, ran over a median and struck Grayer and Justin Marshman before knocking over a light pole, Suchy said.

She then drove after Jamel Marshman, crossing two medians and striking a utility pole before her SUV stopped in a ditch, Suchy said. The boy ran away and was not struck.

A judge ordered Allen held without bail on three counts of attempted murder.

Campus security review

IA Iowa City — The University of Iowa is reviewing campus security measures in light of recent vandalism at a campus laboratory. A new group has been formed to review how the university can better account for all key-cards issued. The university temporarily closed Seashore Hall last month after vandals removed animals and spilled chemicals in a psychology lab.

The Animal Liberation Front claimed responsibility for the attack.

Brother gets his thanks

NM ALBUQUERQUE — When University of New Mexico Hospital workers didn't let 8-year-old Christina Martinez visit her wounded brother, she wouldn't allow it.

"I told them, 'He saved my life, and I want to see him,'" she said of her visit to the hospital — and finally to her brother's bedside Sunday.

"I just said to him, 'Thank you for saving me and I love you,'" Christina said.

Angel Martinez, 10, was maulled by a Rottweiler over the weekend at a park after he pushed the dog off Christina. He was in satisfactory condition at the hospital.



Trying to keep balance Curtis Johnson, 13, of Cleveland, battles a strong gust of wind as he walks by the fallen Christmas tree on Public Square in Cleveland. The 40-foot tree snapped off about 5 feet up on the trunk because of winds up to 55 mph.



Can't take it any longer Bradly Kozusko, left, Emily Hutto, center, and Marissa Pecora, right, led their classmates during the Santa Parade in St. Petersburg, Fla. Hutto paused to scratch her face, saying that her costume was itchy.



Can you fly? Brianna Stockstill, 2, pets Star, a female reindeer, at the Deer Farm and Exotic Petting Zoo in Sevierville, Tenn.



Plunging for charity

Former Miss Nebraska Krista Knicely-Anderson, left, Miss Douglas County Mary Bosshart, center, and Miss Nebraska Brook Matthews sprint to get out of Lake Zorinsky after taking part in the Polar Bear Plunge. The annual event is a fundraiser for the Special Olympics.



Being cute is a rough

Mookie the Bassett hound, right, lets out a long yawn as he and his friends have their picture taken with Santa in El Paso, Texas.



Hang on cowboy!

Cory Melton, of Keithville, La., rides Paleface in the first performance of bull riding at the National Finals Rodeo, at an arena in Las Vegas.



Graceful ballerinas

Dancers perform "Waltz of the Snowflakes" from "The Nutcracker" at Breakfast with Santa, hosted by the Young People's Ballet Theatre at Paavola School of Dance in Flint Township, Mich.

Large injury settlement

CA SAN FRANCISCO — An anti-war protester who said San Francisco after a police officer broke her arm with a baton strike during a demonstration would get one of the city's largest-ever payouts in a police case, under an \$835,000 deal that the Police Commission has approved.

The settlement was reached in a federal lawsuit filed by Linda Vaccarezza, 39, who claimed her civil rights were violated when Police Officer Anthony Nelson clubbed her during the street protests that swept through downtown March 20, 2002, the day after U.S.-led forces invaded Iraq.

Vaccarezza suffered a broken forearm during the incident, which another protester recorded on videotape.

Man gets life in prison

NY RIVERHEAD — A Long Island man was sentenced to 20 years to life in prison for killing his girlfriend's 4-year-old son because the boy urinated in his truck.

Steven Clark, 38, was sentenced after a jury found him guilty last month of second-degree murder for the Feb. 1, 2003, beating death of Isaiah Silver.

The Suffolk District Attorney's office said Clark was angry that he had to bring the boy along on a date with his girlfriend, Tabitha Clark, 25.

Prosecutors said Shawn Clark punched the boy in the stomach after the three returned home from a trip to Brooklyn. The next day, the boy began throwing up and stopped breathing.

Teacher faces jail time

WV CHARLESTON — Susan Robinson, a sixth-grade teacher in Monroe County, faces a fine of up to \$1,000 and 90 days in jail because she propped open her classroom door with a rubber doormat.

An assistant fire marshal issued the state fire code violation citation and confiscated the doormat during a visit to Mountain View Elementary and Middle School in Union. No court date has been set.

Possible market move

OH CINCINNATI — Some tenants of Ohio's oldest municipal market say they'll consider moving across the Ohio River into Kentucky because of rising rent and a requirement to open on Sundays.

Vendors at Findlay Market face a Dec. 17 deadline to sign leases for 2005.

The market says the move to mandatory Sunday hours reflects how people shop today.

Teen gets probation

FL MARCO ISLAND — Accused as the ringleader of a planned violent attack on his high school, a 16-year-old boy received probation after apologizing for what he described as a joke among friends.

Circuit Judge William Blackwell agreed to withhold a conviction for Russell Mescal on the misdemeanor charge to which he pleaded no contest in October, disruption of a school function at

Lely High School.

The sheriff's office began investigating after a fourth-grader alerted an elementary school youth relations deputy that he had overheard his sister talk about several older boys making "a blood pact" and talking about killing people, court records show.

Workers may strike

MA LAWRENCE — Seven hundred workers at Malden Mills Industries could go on strike after the mill's largest union voted 231-198 to reject the company's final three-year contract offer.

The textiles company gained national renown in 1995 when the owner decided to keep workers on the payroll after a fire destroyed the company's main factory.

Davis returns to law

CA LOS ANGELES — Former Gov. Gray Davis, recalled by California voters a year ago, has returned to law practice as an attorney with Loeb & Loeb in Los Angeles.

Davis, 61, will work in the 210-lawyer firm's corporate group and will assist its partners in "developing business relationships," said Loeb & Loeb co-chairman John Frankenhimer.

Objection under fire

CO ESTES PARK — City Trustee David Habecker may lose his seat in a recall election for sitting silently during the Pledge of Allegiance.

Habecker, a former president of the Lion's Club and a town trustee for 12 years, said he objects to the words "under God."

The pledge, written in the 1892, didn't include those words. They were added in 1954 during Sen. Joe McCarthy's pursuit of communists, Habecker said.

He said he is basing his stand on Article VI of the U.S. Constitution, which says no religious test shall be required as a qualification for any office.

Opponents organized a recall election drive and an election date will be set soon.

Tough as steel

FL ST. PETERSBURG — A chocolateier hand-dipped raspberry truffles in chocolate inside a new shop as seven men heaved at the 10,000-pound Mosler safe sitting nearby.

It had taken four hours and snapped two pieces of metal equipment just to move the massive green safe 15 feet to the store entrance.

Built by the company whose safes withstood the atomic bomb on Hiroshima, the safe almost rolled into the street at one point.

But the men from several safe-cracking companies accomplished what many had failed to do over the years: They got the Mosler safe out the front door for the first time in decades.

It has been a fixture in the building, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, since about the 1920s or early 1930s. Mosler Safe Co. of Hamilton, Ohio, folded several years ago. It also is known as the company that built vaults that hold gold at Fort Knox.

Stories and photos from wire services

Horoscope

The sun and new moon in Sagittarius join with Pluto to make a cosmic call like an emphatic preacher, saying, "Lay your burdens down!" But don't worry, if you still think your baggage makes you quirky and attractive, and you can't bear to part with your troubles, events converge to bump the problem right out of your hand.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

(December 11). Your mood is working for you this year, you capture the intrigue of people who make up reasons to be around you. A romantic proposition this month could involve making a lifetime commitment. Shrewd investments this month keep making you money through the year. A change of locale does your heart and soul good in February or March.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). When a "lack" mentality sets in — "Hey, wait, there's nothing different to go about!" — be bold enough to bring life in something different from the rest of the group. Maybe it's time to bust a move to more fertile ground.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Evidence that there may have been a past misjudgment on your part is stacking up and spilling over into your formerly orderly world. Luckily, you can avoid that nasty pile because you are never wrong (ahem).

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Your attitude dictates that everything is doable. Learning is freedom. Once you know the system, you can accomplish the most complex and impressive of feats — living with your family, for starters. Everything is copacetic.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). It's simply not fair. Your mistakes only make you more attractive, your messes make you lovable, and when you misstep, well, you couldn't care less. You are too busy dreaming of ways to earn your first million.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You're not being calculating when you decide to show your vulnerability to someone who will most definitely take you straight into his or her heart

as a result. But if you were being calculating, this would be a stroke of brilliance.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).

Yours is a tough job for sure. You'll be providing tea and sympathy for loved ones, to a point. And then, you'll be serving up the swift kick that gets them back into action. They'll thank you later — much, much later.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Where, then, can you hang the blame for your "blahs"? Is it too much sugar, a lack of exercise, or a pointy room on your credit card for a proper shopping spree that's the problem? Make a few calls, and things turn around quickly.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You're the Sweetest in someone's candy stash, the crouton on the salad, the pickle on the deli plate. How does it feel to have someone crave you? Likely, you're still not sure if you want to be this needed.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You believe in love at first sight. You think it's possible to meet a benevolent lover. And you have faith that everyone gets a comeuppance sooner or later. And so, you're the one to whom these things happen.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You've been breaking your back to see a project take off, and the progress is slow going. As for that person who is doing less and getting more reward, the whistle is blown now — one of the many reasons you're dancing.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). The heights of joy you aspire to can be reached, but not as readily as you'd like right now. If you can't get there through the usual philanthropy, try comparing yourself to people who are really in a bad way.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Your key relationships feature a bit of the old rattle-dazzle, hocus-pocus, mumbo jumbo! It's up to you to decide what to believe. Going along for the ride is probably more fun. There's always time for bubbling blather.

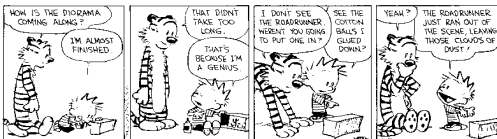
Creators Syndicate

Holiday Mathis



Make a few calls, and things turn around quickly.

Calvin and Hobbes



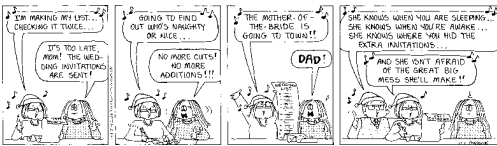
Jump Start



Zits



Cathy



Hi and Lois



Beetle Bailey



Red and Rover



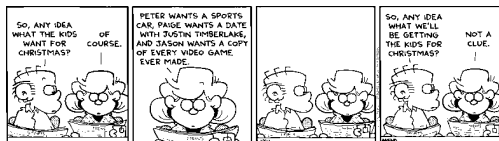
Better or Worse



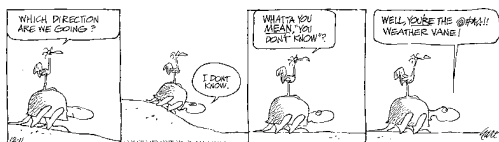
Peanuts



Foxrot



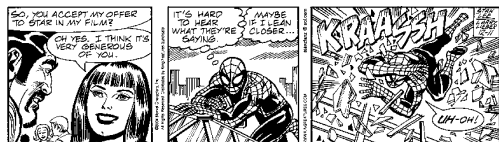
B.C.



Baby Bites



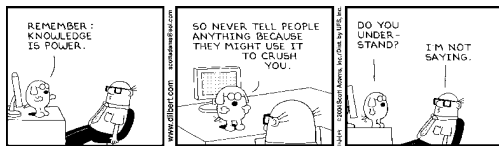
Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



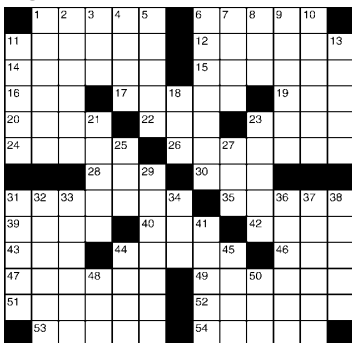
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



Across

- 1 "Get lost!"
- 6 Half a 1960s quartet
- 11 in
- 12 Wards off
- 14 South American land
- 15 Mideastern land
- 16 Possessive pronoun
- 17 — numeral
- 19 Greek vowel
- 20 It takes the cake
- 22 "Platoon" setting
- 23 Not loose
- 24 Brought back
- 26 Tastes
- 28 Insult (Sl.)
- 30 Scale member
- 31 Any old person
- 35 Kid-lit author Dahl
- 39 LPs, CDs, etc. (Abbr.)
- 40 Chaps
- 42 Branch
- 43 "You — There"
- 44 De-squeaked
- 46 Khan title
- 47 European land
- 49 Mediterranean land
- 51 Merchant
- 52 Cutlery
- 53 Cowardly one
- 54 They often battle

Down

- 1 Endeavor
- 2 Went after
- 3 Cartoonist
- 4 Eastern potentate (Var.)
- 5 Crenshaw, e.g.
- 6 Nightwear
- 7 Shakespeare's river
- 8 Apiece
- 9 Zealous
- 10 Museum
- 11 Delist
- 13 Unexpected problems
- 18 Treasure seeker's aid
- 21 Some are real posers
- 23 Corporate division
- 25 King Louis —
- 27 Fate
- 29 Wine description
- 31 Covers completely
- 32 Medal earners
- 33 Peacock-tail spots
- 34 Cath, or Prot.
- 36 Suffer from deprivation
- 37 Medley
- 38 Pile up
- 41 Parts of guitars
- 44 Individuals
- 45 Unit of force
- 48 Hirt and Gore
- 50 Snaps

Answer to Previous Puzzle



12-11 CRYPTOQUIP

BCWX MCVM MEVQQDU
 UZN CVJMW H MCW TXZBLX,
 ZXW LDRCM TVF QEZTMF
 BVT TMZNNWH UZJH.
 Yesterday's Cryptquip: IF MY DINNER PLATE IS FOR-CORNERED, I SUPPOSE YOU COULD SAY I EAT SQUARE MEALS.
 Today's Cryptquip Clue: Q equals F

Work harassment can be stopped

Dear Abby: I'm a 25-year-old recent college graduate who just started a new job. I love it here because I'm doing something I care about and earn decent money. I like all of my co-workers with the exception of one. This person, "Jim," interrupts my work a lot, says things like "Hey, beautiful!" and calls me things like "baby girl." The other day he said, "It's too hot outside." I replied cheerfully, "Sorry, I had nothing to do with it," and he said in a creepy manner, "You have a lot to do with it."

This is bothersome because I think Jim is a nice person, but he makes me uncomfortable. He has worked here a lot longer than I have. I don't want to say anything to the boss because I'm the new girl, and I have been here only a few weeks, and I don't want to make trouble. At the same time, I'm tired of Jim walking into my office, sitting down, talking for long peri-

ods and making off-color remarks. If I close my door, I'll appear anti-social, but I'm tired of being badgered because he's bored or because I'm the only young female in the office. I don't want to get anyone in trouble—I just want to stop.

—Trapped in North Carolina

Dear Abby



Dear Trapped: You are entitled to be comfortable in the workplace and free from unwanted conduct.

State and federal laws guarantee you the right to be free of unwelcome talk based on gender. Ideally, you should tell this man that he is making you uncomfortable. However, if you cannot bring yourself to do it, I urge you to document what is going on and bring your concerns to the attention of your boss or the person who handles human resources at your company.

Dear Abby: I am a 26-year-old female in the Navy. I

have been divorced for two years and have two beautiful little boys.

Last February, I met a man and I have fallen head over heels. He's great with my boys and wonderful to me. He has expressed that although he loves my kids, he also wants children of his own. My problem: I had a tubal ligation after my youngest was born, and now I regret it. I think this is the only thing that is preventing us from going to the next level. What should I do?

—Helpless in Washington

Dear Helpless: Call your ob-gyn and ask if the tubal ligation can be reversed. It is sometimes possible to reverse the procedure. (The same is true of a vasectomy.) If it is not possible, consult an infertility specialist.

These days, there is more than one way to skin a cat or become a mother.

Letters for this column—with your name and phone number—should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at <http://www.ueexpress.com/dearabby>. Universal Press Syndicate

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

GEEBI

YABBE

ENGLIT

GLOONB

www.jumble.com

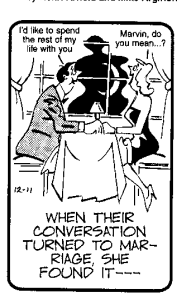
Answer here:

(Answers Monday)

Yesterday's Jumbles: JUICY TULIP BARREN CAJOLE

Answer: The dance instructor demanded the students do this — "TOE" THE LINE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argiron



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Worried mom is dating gold digger

Dear Annie: My dad died three years ago. Six months ago, my mother met a guy while she was walking in the park. Mom is 59 and "Joe" is 13 years younger and twice divorced. At first we were happy for her, but then Joe became manipulative and controlling.

Two months ago, Joe moved in with Mom and suddenly quit his job. Joe said it was just temporary, but now he drives Mom's new Mercedes and screws her calls.

Also, she somehow never gets anyone's messages on her answering machine.

My sister and I meet Mom for lunch every two weeks, and if we say anything about Joe, she becomes very defensive. We think he is using her and has no intention of moving out of her place or getting another job. We are very worried that she might marry this man. He has proposed to her twice, but so far she's declined.

Mom owns her house, two cars and has a very nice income

Annie's Mailbox



from Dad's retirement fund, plus a healthy portfolio from good investments made before he died.

Annie, we want Mom to be happy, but we are terribly concerned that she will marry this guy and get taken to the cleaners.

—Bad Feelings in Georgia

Dear Georgia: Your intuition sounds solid to us. You cannot prevent your mother from making a mistake if she is determined to do so.

However, since you see Mom regularly, you still have the opportunity to influence her. Say only nice things about Joe, but mention you are concerned that she doesn't respond to the messages you leave on her answering machine. You also might tell her she could delay your fears about Joe's motives if she puts her money in trust, proving that he is not interested in her fortune.

Dear Annie: I read the letter from "Riverside, Calif.," who

attended a bridal shower where guests addressed their own thank-you notes and were asked to bring their own stamps.

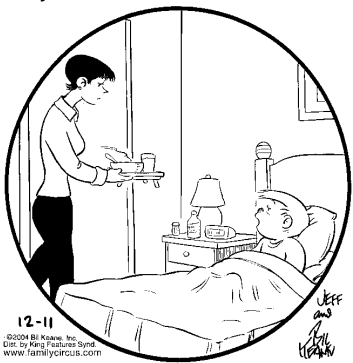
I agree that bringing your own stamp is tacky (maybe one of the bridesmaids can buy the stamps as a gift), but at my wedding shower, guests addressed their own envelopes. I cannot tell you how much easier it was for me to keep everything straight, not to mention ensure that I had the correct address and spelling. It's even a good idea for the guests to indicate who they are ("Ages Smith, Mike's aunt"). I shouldn't have to take the next two months of work to make sure everyone's thank-you note is perfect.

—A Bride in Endicott, N.Y.

Dear Bride: For heaven's sake, you aren't writing a novel. No one has to take two months of work to compose thank-you notes. But we agree that identifying how you are related is helpful.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045. Creators Syndicate

Family Circus



"Was the cold and flu season Congress's idea, or did you get to vote on it?"

GRAFFITI

BRIDAL SHOPS PROVE YOU CAN LIVE ON LOVE

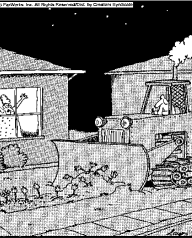
Dennis the Menace



© Gary Larson

The Far Side

"HERE'S AN IDEA! HOW 'BOUT GIVING ME MY STUFF NOW, AND SAVING YOURSELF A TRIP?"



Ginger decides to take out Mrs. Talbot's flower bed once and for all.

Non Sequitur



ALL THE GRINING IS MEANT, WE WOULD TRY TO MAKE MORE OF AN EFFORT TO DISCUSS AND TALK ABOUT THE POINT OF VIEW AND PERSPECTIVE FROM SOME COMMON GRINNING.

TYPES CLASSIFIED

Autos for Sale	
- Okinawa	152

Kadena - 94 Mitsubishi Pajero, 4-doors, V6-3000, gas, AM/FM/Cass/CD, Backup alarm, Adjacent Suspension, Tow Pkg, 7-Seats, Hardly Driven, Clean & Great Value, \$5,000. Call Dave/Judith at 633-0072 or 090-6863-5500.

Kadena - 94 Skyline GT-R (turbo), JCI 106, gray 4dr locs/miles, fast engine, clean interior, all Kenwood CD/speakers, great tires, no body damage, great

Kinser - 1996 Honda Civic 4-doors, gray, power everything, 100,000 miles, clean, excellent condition, JCI every Dec 2006. CD Player, \$1,800. Call 090 8798 9098 or 637-1333 ask for Dwayne.

Kinser - 1998 Toyota Solara Green, Power windows/locks/doors, Sunroof, New Car's battery/tires, Cold A/C. JCI until August 2006. Call 637-3785, \$2,900.00 OBO.

Kinser - 1996 Honda Civic
4-doors, gray, power everything
low miles (50K), family owned
excellent condition, JCI expiring
Dec 2006, CD Player, \$1,800.00
call 090 9789 9098 or 637-1313
ask for Dwayne.

Kinser - 1998 Toyota Sienna
Green, Power windows/ locks
doors, Sunroof, New brake
battery/ tires, Cold A/C. JCI
good until August 2006. Call
637-3785. \$2,900.00 OBO.

Autos for Sale	
- Okinawa	152

Courtney, Oklahoma - Scooter. Practically brand new. Only has a very low mileage. Color red. Call me with a copy of the ad to get around the bases. Interested please call 622-8234 or cell 090-1945-9762.

Futernia - 1998 HD FUJIR Road King. Very clean. Too many extras to list. Email conradyn@nirajni.net. For more info/pics or call 090-7464-5340.

Kadena - Harley Davidson of some tan checkered print or hood. \$25. 020. Call 622-8477 or 090-7464-5340. Email: conradyn@nirajni.net or conradyn@nirajni.net

Courtney, Oklahoma - Arm. Road-Chester blue. 1998. 1000 cc. 55000 miles. \$7500. Call 622-5225 or 090-6864-4980.

Foster, Oklahoma - Aventura. 1998. Pump, up for 8 weeks, comes with 4 breast milk containers (unopened), pump, cold/warm packs, carrying case, extra

Turner, Oklahoma - Scooter, practically brand new. Only has very low mileage. Color red. Call for more details. Call for more details. Interested please call 622-8234 or cell 930-1945-9782.

Autulena - 1998 HD FLHR Road King. Very clean. Too many extras to list. Email onkrady@nirax.net for more photos or call 690-7464-5340.

Adena - Harley Davidson.

some tan checked print or hood. \$25. OBQ call 622-8470. Email: cassis.mediatel.net/pictures.

Courtney, Oklahoma Arms Reach Co-Scooter blue/green. \$75.00 call 622-5285 or 900-6864-4980.

Foster, Oklahoma - Aventura bike, used for 6 weeks, comes with 4 breast milk containers (unopened), pump, cold/warm packs, carrying case, extra

Motorcycles - Okinawa	170
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Foster, Okinawa - Avent breast
pump, used for 6 weeks, comes
with 4 breast milk containers
(unopened), pump, coldwater
packs, carrying case, extra

Courtney, Okinawa - Arm
Reach Co-Sleeper blue ging
ham. \$75.00 Call 622-5285
090-6864-4980.

Baby Items	200
------------	-----

Yokota, Japan - BMGT 364, management, \$50; BMGT 380, Business Law today, \$60; BMGT 483, business & Government in the Global Market Place, \$50; COMM 393 Technical Communication, \$40; COMM 399 Management communication,

364, Japan - BMGT 364,
 Business Law today, \$50;
 BMGT 483, business & Govern-
 ment in the Global Market
 place, \$50; COMM 393 Techni-
 cal Communication, \$44; COMM
 300 Management communica-

Cellular Phones	280	C
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Computers 8

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Excellent condition
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and not to use. Will sell for
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Box, Okinawa - I have a N box with two tens and watt amp already mounted for sale. Paid 300.00 th, will sell for \$140.00. wires and speaker wires included. Call 632-3157.

Okinawa - I have a box with two tens and att amp already mount for sale. Paid 300.00 will sell for \$140.00. tires and speaker wires Call 632-3157.

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100% Financed

Household Items	560
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na, Okinawa - Karaoke
he for sale! Will throw in
s 15+ and 2 microphones.
e ability to record singing
6 Call 632-6513.

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Okinawa - Link DMP-Player: 64Mb. \$50 call

Electronics 570

5 Call 633-6513.

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Player: 64Mb. \$50 call

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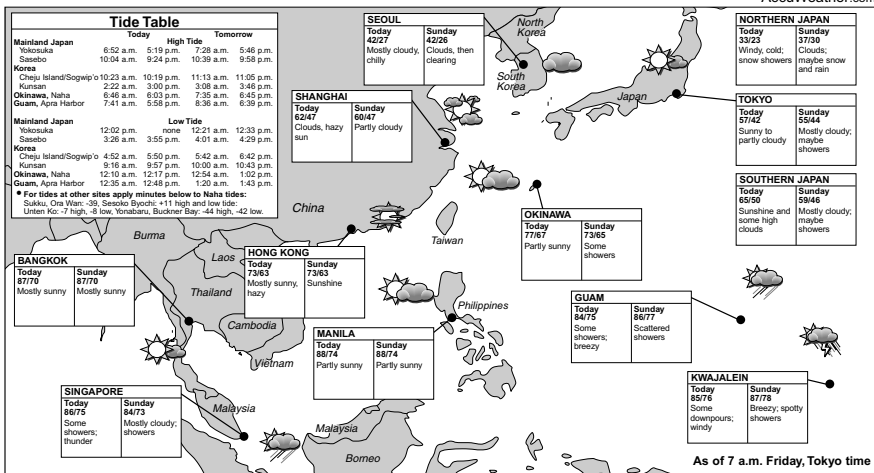
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Extended Forecasts

TOKYO Monday: Partly sunny, high 55, low 41. Tuesday: Mostly sunny, high 54, low 42.	KADENA Monday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 75, low 61. Tuesday: Partly sunny, high 73, low 61.	SEOUL Monday: Partly sunny, high 39, low 26. Tuesday: Partly sunny, high 47, low 31.	MANILA Monday: Partly sunny, high 88, low 74. Tuesday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 86, low 72.	HAGATNA Monday: Showers, high 84, low 77. Tuesday: Showers, high 86, low 77.
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Thursday's USA Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Albuquerque	54/33	Los Angeles	70/52
Amarillo	70/34	Little Rock	67/45
Anchorage	22/15	Louisville	57/48
Burlington	56/47	Miami	82/72
Baltimore	50/43	Milwaukee	46/41
Birmingham	71/52	Nashville	63/51
Bismarck	37/22	New York	49/42
Boise	48/41	Omaha	50/33
Boston	45/36	Orlando	85/66
Brownsville	83/58	Philadelphia	50/42
Buffalo	47/38	Phoenix	69/52
Cincinnati	40/29	Pittsburgh	51/44
Charleston, SC	79/64	Portland, OR	52/50
Charlotte	58/52	Portland, ME	43/32
Chicago	51/41	Salt Lake City	48/37
Columbus, OH	51/42	St. Louis	60/42
Duluth	35/24	San Antonio	78/48
El Paso	64/40	San Diego	67/54
Hartford	49/34	San Juan	86/72
Helena	47/30	Tampa	83/68
Indianapolis	53/42	Tulsa	63/38
Jacksonville	82/66	Washington	52/46
Kansas City	55/37	Wichita	63/33

Saturday, December 11



Charges not enough to change attitude

That was a slick production by the prosecutor in the Malice at the Palace. All that was missing was the battered popcorn.

■ Slick shots of the accused superimposed on a large screen over the sobering seal of the Oakland County of Michigan prosecutor's office flashed in a nationally televised news conference.

■ Slow-motion video showing the sequence of violence, from the droplets splashing out of the cup that hit Ron Artest to the punches thrown in the stands and on the court.

■ The charges read over so solemnly: Artest and Indiana teammates Stephen Jackson, David Harrison and Anthony Johnson, one count each of assault and battery; Jermaine O'Neal, two counts of assault and battery; five Detroit fans, assault and battery; one of those fans a felony assault charge for throwing a chair; two other fans citations for walking on the court.

What does it all mean? Probably nothing.

Don't expect any of the players to spend a day in jail or suffer a minute of hard labor — even if the law says they could get up to three months in the slammer if they're convicted of the misdemeanors. Backed by their cadre of attorneys, the worst the players probably will see is probation and a \$500 fine.

Don't expect the fans to get much more punishment, either, though two could get all time. Prosecutor David Gorczyca singled out John Green as "the one that's most culpable" for throwing the chair at Artest and sparking the brawl. Green, who has a prior criminal record, faces two assault charges.

Green's lawyer, Shawn Smith, called the charges against his client "outrageous and the worst kind of politics."

The scene at the prosecutor's office did smack of politicking, but it wasn't nearly as outrageous as the behavior in The Palace that could have led to far stiffer charges if anyone had been hurt seriously.

One of the so-called fans, Bryant Jackson, was charged with felony assault for throwing a chair into the fray. The felony carries up to four years in prison, though Jackson could face more time because he has a prior criminal record.

This is one case where the legal consequences for the players are not nearly as severe as the punishment already handed out by the league: stiff suspensions and a total of \$12 million in salary.

For all the attention this brawl brought, it's doubtful that the penalties and the lessons learned so far are making an impact on other players and fans.

Just this past weekend in Los Angeles, a woman in the crowd heckled Latrell Sprewell, and the hotheaded Minnesota player responded by shouting a sexual obscenity at her.

Just Sprewell's luck: His words got picked up by a courtside microphone and were broadcast on

Steve Wilstein

TV in Los Angeles and Minnesota. At another time, with a recent player, that episode might have drawn a small fine. The Palace brawl changed things, and Sprewell is a repeat offender.

The NBA suspended him for a game, setting him back \$162,000 in salary.

Suspensions and fines haven't made much of dent on Sprewell's demeanor over the years. He was suspended for one year — later reduced to 68 games — for choking Golden State Warriors coach P.J. Carlesimo at practice in 1997. In 1999, Sprewell was fined \$10,000 for making profane remarks to fans during a game. In December 2003, he was fined \$25,000 by the NBA for cursing at New York Knicks chairman James Dolan and screaming at the team's bench.

Last month, he received a misdemeanor citation after arguing with a police officer during a traffic stop. Sprewell, who was a passenger in the vehicle, claimed he was treated unfairly.

Funny how some people keep getting treated unfairly.

James W. Burdick, Stephen Jackson's lawyer, said it was "unfair and inappropriate" to charge his client with assault.

"The problem is this: a few crazed, drunken fans who created a chaotic situation," Burdick said. Steve responded in a way that he thought was necessary to protect himself and protect his friends."

Leave it to the lawyers to obfuscate the obvious and spin the blame away from their poor clients. Jackson didn't have to protect Artest by charging into the stands and swinging wildly at fans half his size. All the players had to do was demand that security at the arena throw out the abusive fans.

But therein lies the problem. Two of the players and so many fans think they have the right to do anything and say anything they want, as if the money they have is the money they pay gives them that right.

There's a twisted math game going on, players standing up for respect when they think they're being disrespected, fans doing the same when they think the players are disrespecting them.

Artest taunted the Pistons and then when he lay down on the scorer's table after the shove from Ben Wallace following Artest's hard foul. That sarcastic gesture by Artest led to the cup being lobbed from the stands, which led to everything else that ensued.

It was a petty incident that came close to being very serious. Attitudes have to change, and it will take more than suspensions and misdemeanor charges to change them.

Steve Wilstein is a national sports columnist for The Associated Press. Write to him at: swilstein@ap.org

Indiana's image takes a hit after Detroit brawl, charges

BY JON KRAWCZYNSKI

The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Punches have been exchanged, video played and, now, charges filed.

For the Indiana Pacers, it's been a long three weeks since a brawl with Detroit fans scarred the image of what was once considered one of the NBA's model franchises.

Five Pacers players and seven fans were charged Wednesday for fighting in the stands and on the court on Nov. 19.

Pacers Ron Artest, Stephen Jackson, David Harrison and Anthony Johnson all were charged with one count of misdemeanor assault and battery, and could face up to three months in jail if convicted.

Three-time All-Star Jermaine O'Neal was charged with two counts of assault and battery.

Pacers CEO Donnie Walsh has called the brawl one of the low points in sports and in the fran-

chise's history. Johnson said the melee was "unfortunate, because it's definitely a team built around turning the corner and challenging for a championship, and at the same time being comprised of good guys."

"Definitely, the image of this team will take a hit after what happened in Detroit — that, combined maybe with the behavior of the regular season, Jackson for 30 games and O'Neal for 25 for their roles in the melee."

The shocking images broadcast on a seemingly continuous loop since the fight broke out have tarnished the team's image. Artest was suspended for the rest of the regular season, Jackson for 30 games and O'Neal for 25 for their roles in the melee.

Center Jeff Foster still struggles to understand why a skirmish between Artest and Pistons center Ben Wallace escalated into one of the worst cases of player-fan violence in U.S. sports history.

League sits out as Pistons, Pacers appeal suspensions from melee

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — An arbitrator heard six hours of testimony Thursday in a grievance hearing that the NBA refused to attend about the Pacers-Pistons brawl-related suspensions issued by commissioner David Stern.

Arbitrator Roger Kaplan indicated he would not issue a ruling for at least a week.

The players' union asked for a specific reduction in the suspensions for Pacers Ron Artest, Stephen Jackson, Jermaine O'Neal and Anthony Johnson, though union officials would not specify what penalties they suggested.

Each of the players testified for at least half an hour, and two other people — O'Neal's security agent and a union attorney — also were called as witnesses.

Two of the players commented as they left the hearing at a Manhattan law office.

The NBA declined to participate, contending that Stern has sole authority over on-court discipline and that the arbitrator has no jurisdiction to hear the case.

"The fact that the NBA has elected not to participate was

Briefs

somewhat of a surprise," union director Billy Hunter said. "Their conduct over the last few days was somewhat surprising."

Toronto's Carter to miss at least two games

TORONTO — Vince Carter of the Toronto Raptors will miss at least two games because of a strained left Achilles' tendon.

Carter was injured in the first minute of the second half of Toronto's 90-86 overtime loss at Detroit on Wednesday.

"When you lose one of your starters and star players, it's always going to be a factor," coach Sam Mitchell said. "Take a good player off any team in the league and it hurts them, so you do the math."

"He's our best player and he's out, if he's out ... it's going to hurt. There's a way around it, but coming off the bench haven't scored like Vince has scored, or done the things he's done, so it will hurt us."

The Raptors, losers of five straight, host Denver on Friday in Miami on Sunday.



Toronto guard Vince Carter has a strained left Achilles' tendon.

Denver's White suspended one game for weapons charges

NEW YORK — Denver Nuggets forward Rodney White was suspended without pay for one game by the NBA on Thursday for pleading guilty to unlawful possession of a weapon.

White spent two weeks in jail after he and two other men were arrested in September for allegedly shooting randomly into the air.

Sonics: Seattle snaps Spurs' home streak at 21

SONICS, FROM BACK PAGE

Mamu Ginoili scored 18 and Manu Parker 16 in San Antonio's first home loss since March. Duncan had 10 rebounds.

The winning streak ended one game short of the team record of 22 straight in 1999.

Down 60-41 at the half, the

Spurs went on a 23-8 run to open the third to pull to 68-64 with three minutes left in the period.

Duncan accounted for 12 of San Antonio's points during the run.

His four baskets in the quarter were one more than the entire Seattle team (3-for-12).

Leading 31-29 after one period,

the SuperSonics got their advantage into double digits with a 14-2 run to start the second.

Later in the period, Seattle used an 11-2 spur to build a 56-37 lead with less than three minutes left in the half.

San Antonio made only five of its 16 shots in the second and scored only one fast-break basket in the half.

Giants plan to celebrate milestones by Bonds

The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — The San Francisco Giants will honor Barry Bonds' home run milestones and other achievements as they always have — with great fanfare.

"There are a lot of things we're planning," executive vice president and chief operating officer Larry Baer said Wednesday.

"The bottom line is, we want to have a chance to make clear that we're continuing to recognize him and represent him as we have in the past. When we open the season in 2005, we're going to recognize his historic milestones, and those by any Giant, appropriately and in a major way."

On Tuesday, a top official in the commissioner's office said baseball was holding off on plans to market Bonds' pursuit of Hank Aaron's home run record, a decision made after a report of the slugger's grand jury testimony about steroids.

Bob DuPuy, baseball's chief operating officer, said a meeting was canceled between the commissioner's office and MasterCard International, a corporate sponsor it was courting for the campaign.

That doesn't mean Bonds won't receive plenty of recognition during his pursuit to become home run king, Baer said.

"I want to remove this notion that anyone's peeling back from Barry at this point," he said.

Bonds also signed deal this week to appear on Topps baseball cards. Bonds did not appear on Topps cards last year after he



An official in the commissioner's office recently said baseball was holding off on plans to market Bonds' (above) pursuit of Hank Aaron's home run record, a decision made after a report of the slugger's grand jury testimony about steroids.

opted out of the marketing plan of the Major League Baseball Players Association.

"Barry's trading cards have always been highly collectible and we are thrilled to have him in our 2005 lineup," Topps vice president Warren Friss said.

The deal grants Topps exclusive rights among trading card companies for autographed baseball cards, game-used memorabilia and use of Bonds' image on packaging and advertising.

Bonds, the seven-time NL MVP who also has repeatedly denied steroid use, testified to the grand jury that he used a clear substance and a cream given to him by a trainer who was indicted in the BALCO investigation, but said he didn't know they were steroids. Prosecutors allege those substances were performance-enhancing drugs.

The 40-year-old Bonds has 703 career homers, trailing only Babe Ruth (714) and Aaron (755). The Giants haven't announced specifics for how they will celebrate Bonds' accomplishments but are in the planning process.

Clemens leaning to retirement, but says he'll delay his decision

The Associated Press

HOUSTON — Right now, Roger Clemens is leaning toward retirement. Fortunately for his Houston Astros, he's still making up his mind.

"If I had to decide today, I'd say I'm not playing," Clemens said Thursday. "But I'm not saying that. My wife and family want me to wait until after I take a vacation before I make a decision."

"Three of my sons say there's no way they want me to come back and one of them wants me to. But I think he just likes the benefits they have at the games. So we'll have to see," he said.

Clemens, 42, won his seventh Cy Young award after going 18-4 with a 2.98 ERA last season in his first year in the National

League. Trying to pitch his hometown Astros into the World Series for the first time, he lost Game 7 of the NL championship series at St. Louis.

"I'm not ready to say yes or no about my future," he said. "I know which way I'm leaning, but I want to get away on vacation a while and see how I feel after that."

Clemens has said the health of his 74-year-old mother, Bess, who has emphysema, would be a factor in his decision. He wants her to see him in person in the Hall of Fame, which is at least five years away after he retires.

"My mother's health is not getting any better," Clemens said.

Marlins, Vegas discuss move

MIAMI — The Florida Marlins have met with Las Vegas officials about a possible move, saying negotiations for a new ballpark in Miami have lasted longer than the team anticipated.

Bruce Rubin, a spokesman for Marlins owner Jeffrey Loria, said Thursday that Marlins officials met with Las Vegas Mayor Oscar Goodman and others for about 90 minutes Wednesday.

"These were social discussions, a get-to-know-each-other meeting," Rubin said. "Simply, Vegas wants a baseball team and the Marlins are a baseball team. It was decided that the two sides should get together."

He said the Marlins are negotiating with Miami city and Miami-Dade County officials over a proposal to build a 38,000-seat, retractable-roof ballpark next to the Orange Bowl. The Marlins currently play in Pro Player Stadium, which was built for the NFL's Miami Dolphins.

The Marlins say South Florida's wet and hot summers hurt attendance and that they need a covered stadium to be financially viable. The Marlins have offered to pay \$192 million of the projected \$420 million cost, with the government paying the rest. One of the holdups is over who would be responsible for cost overruns.

The Marlins started play in 1993 — drawing more than 3 million fans their inaugural season — and won the World Series in



Roger Clemens, who came out of retirement last season and won his seventh Cy Young Award, says he's leaning toward retirement again.

1997 and 2003. Attendance plummeted after the 1994 players' strike and the post-1997 payroll purge ordered by founding owner H. Wayne Huizenga. Attendance has rebounded somewhat in recent seasons, but is still among the lowest in the major leagues.

Williams returns to Padres

SAN DIEGO — Right-handed Woody Williams has rejoined the San Diego Padres some three years after being traded away in what general manager Kevin Towers called the worst move he's ever made.

The 38-year-old free agent agreed to a one-year contract, with an option for 2006. He is guaranteed \$3.5 million and could earn up to \$14.5 million over two seasons if he starts regularly.

"It's not often as a GM that you can make a mistake and then get an opportunity to bring that mistake back and have him in a Padres uniform," Towers said. "To this day, people ask me what's the worst deal I ever made. I say the worst trade I ever made was trading Woody Williams."

Williams joined the Padres during their post-World Series rebuilding in 1999 and was sent to St. Louis for outfielder Ray Lankford and cash in a waiver deal shortly after the trading deadline in 2001.

Williams was popular with his teammates and fans, but was due to make \$7.25 million in 2002. The Padres were shedding salary because the move into their new downtown ballpark had been delayed for two years by several lawsuits. Meanwhile, they got little production from Lankford, who made about \$10 million in less than two seasons with the Padres.

Williams was 11-8 with a 4.18 ERA for St. Louis last season. He started the season 2-5 before winning 10 of his last 13 decisions.

He started Game 1 in all three

postseason series for the Cardinals, going 2-0 and getting a no-decision in Game 1 of the World Series against Boston.

He is 103-84 with a 4.05 ERA in 12 big league seasons with Toronto, San Diego and St. Louis. Williams was 10-8 for San Diego in 2000, and overall was 30-28 for the Padres.

Also on Wednesday, catcher Sandy Alomar Jr. departed the Chicago White Sox for a \$550,000, one-year deal with Texas, and reliever Matt Mantei moved on from Arizona for a \$750,000, one-year contract with Boston.

Several players agreed to re-sign just before the Tuesday midnight deadline for clubs to offer salary arbitration to their free agents. Brad Radke got an \$18 million, two-year contract from the Minnesota Twins and St. Louis agreed to one-year deals with pitchers Matt Morris (\$2.5 million) and Cal Eldred (\$600,000) and outfielder John Mabry (\$75,000).

Red Sox slugger Ortiz will not play in winter league

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic — Boston Red Sox designated hitter David Ortiz will not play this winter with the Escondido Lions in his native Dominican Republic because of a lingering injury in his right shoulder.

Ortiz said Thursday he wants to rest so his shoulder is ready for spring training.

"I feel a very strong discomfort in the shoulder. I'm sorry I can't play winter ball this season," said Ortiz, who had played with Escondido for seven consecutive seasons dating back to 1997.

"I have to get well to be healthy when the major league camps start."

Ortiz, MVP of the AL championship series, had his best season in the majors with a .301 average, 41 home runs and 139 RBIs.



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This year's Heisman finalists are doubled over

First time two players from two schools will make trip to New York

BY RALPH D. RUSSO

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Jason White has a chance to join Archie Griffin as a two-time Heisman Trophy winner.

White, the Oklahoma quarterback who won last year's Heisman, was chosen Wednesday as one of five finalists for college football's most prestigious individual title.

Joining White for Saturday's award ceremony in New York will be his Oklahoma teammate Adrian Peterson, Southern California teammates Matt Leinart and Reggie Bush, and Utah quarterback Alex Smith.

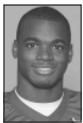
It's the first time teammates from two schools were selected as finalists for the award.

Among Heisman contenders who did not make the top 5 were Texas running back Cedric Benson, Auburn quarterback



USC tailback Reggie Bush

USC QB Matt Leinart



Oklahoma RB Adrian Peterson



Utah QB Alex Smith



Oklahoma QB Jason White

Jason Campbell and California teammates Aaron Rodgers and J.J. Arrington.

Griffin, a running back who played for Ohio State, won the Heisman in 1974 and 1975 and is the only two-time winner.

White was the favorite for last year's Heisman and beat out Pittsburgh's wide receiver Larry Fitzgerald and Mississippi quarterback El Manning. This time, the race appears too close to call. White and Leinart, USC's quarterback, have put up similar numbers while leading their teams to 12-0 records and a matchup in the Orange Bowl for the national championship.

White comes to town after passing for 2,961 yards and 33 touchdowns, and in a much better mood than last year. A week before the '03 Heisman ceremony, the Sooners were upset by Kansas State 35-7 in the Big 12 title game and White had his worst game of the season.

This season, White threw three touchdown passes in Oklahoma's 42-3 rout of Colorado in the league title game.

The presence of Peterson, a freshman, helped White produce another fine season but may hinder the quarterback's chances of matching Griffin's feat. Peterson ran for 1,843 yards and 15 touchdowns, and produced his best games against the Sooners' toughest opponents.

No freshman has ever won the Heisman.

White, a sixth-year senior, has a Heisman vote and said he planned to pick Peterson No. 1 on his ballot.

Oklahoma coach Bob Stoops can't decide between the two.

"These guys are tremendous. You see it every week. They complement each other with great running and passing — and it's made a major difference this year, the fact that we're strong in both," Stoops said.

"But a lot of those guys have helped them. So I wouldn't be the one to choose. It wouldn't be fair."

USC has a similar situation with Leinart and Bush. They complement each other, but also could take votes away from each other.

Leinart has thrown for 2,990 yards and 28 touchdowns, with only six interceptions. He is the Trojans' steady leader.

The versatile Bush is their spectacular home-run hitting running back. Bush's 15 touchdowns have come running, receiving and on returns. He has also thrown a TD pass.

"I think I might have shaken up the votes a little bit," he said after running for 204 yards, including TD runs of 81 and 65 yards, in USC's 29-24 regular-season-ending victory at UCLA.

Led by Smith, Utah became the first team from a mid-major conference to reach a BCS bowl game this season. The versatile junior has passed for 2,624 yards and 28 TDs and run for 563 yards and 10 touchdowns.

The Utes will play Pittsburgh in the Fiesta Bowl on Jan. 1.

Georgia DE Pollack tabbed best lineman

BY JOEL ANDERSON

The Associated Press

HOUSTON — Georgia defensive end David Pollack won the Lombardi Award as the nation's top college lineman Wednesday night, one year after being a runner-up for the honor.

Pollack edged out Shaun Cody of Southern Cal, Erasmus James of Wisconsin and Derrick Johnson of Texas for the 40-pound granite trophy. Last year he finished behind Oklahoma's Tommie Harris, who also won the award on his second try.

"I tell you what, you don't want to be known as a two-time loser," Pollack joked. "I'm so proud to be honored this way ... I definitely couldn't have expected this."

Pollack had 48 tackles, including 9½ sacks and 14½ tackles for a loss, for No. 8 Georgia this season. He will lead the Bulldogs (9-2) against No. 16 Wisconsin (9-2) in the Outback Bowl on Jan. 1.

Once envisioned to be only a "good program guy" by Georgia coach Mark Richt, Pollack has turned out to be much more. "We thought he'd be a starter someday and do some good things," Richt said. "But we never dreamed he'd do the things he's done."

Pollack laughed about his coach's assessment of him as a recruit.

"Hey, I didn't think Coach Richt was going to be that good of a coach," he said.

Pollack arrived at Georgia expecting to play football and spent his entire first summer in Athens getting ready to be a blocker, only to be shifted to defense just before fall workouts began because of injuries and a lack of depth on the line.

White's twin peaks

Oklahoma QB has chance to win back-to-back Heismans after leading Sooners to second straight BCS title game

BY JEFF LATZKE

The Associated Press

NORMAN, Okla. — Growing up in a small Oklahoma town, Jason White would try to throw a football through a tire. Usually, his miss. But there was this consolation: He sure could run.

So when White played the sport in first grade, he was a running back.

After reconstructive surgery on both knees, White can't scamper around the way he used to. But he sure can throw. And the Oklahoma Sooners quarterback has a shot to become just the second player in history to win the Heisman Trophy twice.

Back in school as a sixth-year senior after winning the 2003 Heisman, he's also in the unusual position of having a say in who claims the 2004 award Saturday — past honors get a vote.

Still, another nice individual trophy isn't foremost in White's mind.

"It doesn't really matter to me," he said. "I came back for a couple reasons, and winning the Heisman wasn't one of them."

Maybe that's why, at one point this season, White said he'd cast

his vote for teammate Adrian Peterson, a freshman tailback. White has reiterated that he wouldn't feel comfortable voting for himself.

White and Peterson were two of five Heisman finalists announced Wednesday, joined by Southern California teammates Matt Leinart and Reggie Bush, and Utah's Alex Smith.

In two seasons as Oklahoma's starting QB, White has thrown for 6,807 yards and 73 touchdowns while leading the Sooners to consecutive undefeated regular seasons. Unlike last season, White helped Oklahoma win the Big 12 championship game. Oklahoma (12-0) will play USC for the national title in the Orange Bowl on Jan. 4; last season, the Sooners lost the Bowl Championship Series title game to LSU.

White has been the steady force for the Sooners this season.

When they found themselves trailing Kansas State, White threw two second-half touchdown passes. And when Texas A&M appeared headed for an upset, White tossed three TDs after the break.

Overall, he completed 65 percent of his passes for 2,961 yards

and 33 touchdowns with only six interceptions this season. He threw for 3,846 yards and 40 touchdowns a year ago. All those numbers make him a candidate to succeed Ohio State running back Archie Griffin (1974-75) as a two-time Heisman winner.

Compared to last season, White says he thinks he's played "smarter" — taking care of the ball and understanding the offense better.

"His poise and the way he's managed the game this year is far better than last year," OU offensive coordinator Chuck Long said. "We were down by halftime in a lot of games last year, so he never got to experience some adversity until it was too late. He's dealt with adversity a lot better this year."

Long considers the Texas A&M game White's shining moment. The then-No. 22 Aggies led visiting Oklahoma by two touchdowns on three occasions, but White kept bringing his team back. He finished with five touchdown passes as the Sooners came back a 28-14 deficit to win 42-35.

"That was the one signature game that you said as a coach, 'He has improved from last year,'" Long said. "He has grown and matured from last year."



Jason White (2,961 yards, 33 TD passes, six INTs) can join Ohio State's Archie Griffin as the only players to win back-to-back Heismans.

When asked what he thinks makes his quarterback better this season, coach Bob Stoops points out that White is finally healthy.

Ailing legs limited his mobility and forced him to play out of the shotgun last season. Now he can take snaps from under center,

which makes Oklahoma's running game stronger, and White has an easier time scrambling.

"He was more of a scrambler before he was a pocket passer," Long said. "He had to redefine his game when he did get hurt to become more of a pocket passer."

Mia Hamm, right, ended her 17-year career with the U.S. women's national soccer team on Wednesday in Carson, Calif., in a friendly match against Mexico, which the U.S. won 5-0. Hamm has a world-record 158 goals in international play. Midfielder Julie Foudy and defender Joy Fawcett also ended their careers for the U.S. team.

AP



Emotional send-off for Hamm, Foudy

By KEN PETERS

The Associated Press

CARSON, Calif. — The security guards were trying to hustle Mia Hamm off the field, but she was having none of it. Making a U-turn, Hamm headed directly to a group of young fans seated in the stands who were screaming for an autograph.

"We all understand there's a bigger perspective," she said. "We want to make sure this game and these girls go forward together."

Hamm and Julie Foudy closed out their remarkable careers with the U.S. women's soccer team in style Wednesday night, cheered on by hordes of young girls in a 5-0 victory over Mexico.

"It's hard to believe that it's over. Julie was crying, I'm crying," Hamm said. "I'm extremely blessed."

Foudy said it really hit her that it was her last game in a U.S. uniform as she walked down the tunnel before the game.

"It was a special night," she said. "I was thinking that this was the last time I will hear the national anthem before I go out on the field."

Hamm, the career-leading scorer for the American women, assisted on the first two goals in the friendly match against the Mexican national team.

Fawcett, meanwhile, played her usual dominating role in the midfield.

Hamm, 32, and Foudy, 33, took the field for the last time in the finale of a 10-game "Fan Celebration Tour."

Longtime teammate Joy Fawcett, 36, also is retiring, but was unable to play because she is recuperating from back surgery.

Playing before a crowd of 15,549 who were yelling their names throughout the match, Hamm, Foudy and Fawcett smiled and waved to the fans after the final whistle.

The three were honored in a

pre-game ceremony and were presented with framed jerseys with their numbers on them and bouquets of roses.

The trio left quite a legacy, including the 1999 World Cup victory over China that drew 90,000 to the Rose Bowl and attracted a TV audience of 40 million.

While those three were playing, the United States won two World Cup championships and two Olympic gold medals, including in Athens last summer.

Hamm wore a jersey bearing her husband's name, Chicago Cubs shortstop Nomar Garciaparra, in the second half, Garciaparra and his family were in the stands.

"I wasn't expecting that," said Hamm, who was touched that the Garciaparras joined her family at the game. "That was special."

Hamm, who finished her career with 158 goals, came close to scoring several times, including bouncing a shot off the crossbar in the close-range shot blocked by the goalkeeper in the second half.

Aly Wagner and Abby Wambach each scored two goals for the United States, which led 4-0 at halftime.

On the first U.S. goal, Hamm displayed the ballhandling skills that served her so well during her storied career. She took a pass in the right corner of the box, started dribbling to her left, then to her right, feinted back to her left, then heard around an off-balance defender.

With goalkeeper Pamela Tajonar sliding to her left to cut off the angle, Hamm rolled a perfectly paced pass across the center of the box and a charging Wambach drove a shot into the open left side of the net.

Hamm also assisted on the second score, this time showing her accuracy from the corner. Her curling corner kick sailed just over the goalie's outstretched hands and right into the center of the box, where Wambach headed the ball into the open net.

Chiefs' Holmes out for season

The Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Kansas City Chiefs' star running back Priest Holmes will miss the rest of the season with a knee injury.

NFL briefs

Holmes, who was leading the NFL in scoring and rushing when he got hurt in early November, was placed on injured reserve Thursday.

The Chiefs' (4-8) indicated Wednesday they would probably finish the year without Holmes, whose recovery from sprained knee ligaments has gone much more slowly than the team hoped.

"Priest Holmes is making steady progress on the rehabilitation of his right knee," Chiefs President Carl Peterson said in a statement. "Unfortunately, that rehabilitation is taking longer than originally anticipated, meaning Priest is running out of time to be healthy enough to play."

Holmes was the NFL's player of the month for October, when he had three 100-yard rushing games, rushed for nine touchdowns and caught 10 passes for 170 yards and a touchdown. That put him on pace to be the first NFL player to score 20 or more touchdowns rushing in three consecutive seasons.

He ends 2004 with 892 yards rushing on 196 carries, with 15

NFL injury update

Injuries to prominent NFL players, followed by the team's prognosis. (See Page 39 for complete injury report.)
Cardinals QB Emmitt Smith (sprained toe) upgraded to questionable.
Seahawks WR Plaxico Burress (hamstring) will not play Sunday.

touchdowns. He also caught 19 passes for 187 yards and one TD.

Browns to start QB McConow

BEREA, Ohio — Although Jeff Garcia is listed as probable on Cleveland's injury report and interim coach Terry Robiskie says he is "90 percent healthy," rookie Luke McConow will make his season and career start Sunday when the Browns face the Buffalo Bills.

"We told him that we thought Luke went out this weekend (against New England) and did a pretty decent job," Robiskie said. "We wanted to give Luke another week." (The Jeff) said he was fine with it."

A player who has a strained right shoulder, was not available for comment Wednesday.

Harrison dead might force Muhammad out of Carolina

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Marvin Harrison's new \$66 million contract could lead to a big payday for Carolina receiver Muhsin Muhammad. If just might not be with the Panthers.

Muhammad has been on a

six-week tear for the Panthers (5-7), pulling in 40 catches and eight touchdowns.

He's already scored a career-best 10 TDs this season, and his 63 catches has him on pace for his best season since 2000, when he tied Harrison for the NFL lead with 102 catches.

It's perfect timing for Muhammad, but it isn't likely to come from the Panthers, at least under his current contract.

"I don't know how much of an influence Mary's contract is going to have with mine," Muhammad said Thursday. "But every time a receiver signs a big deal, I think it raises the bar everybody underneath them."

That means more money for Muhammad, but it isn't likely to come from the Panthers, at least under his current contract.

Muhammad is due a \$10 million roster bonus in March as part of a restructuring he agreed to in September when the Panthers were salary-cap strapped.

The deal also added another year to his contract, but neither side is likely to exercise it.

And aside from the bonus, Muhammad has a \$12 million-plus salary cap number next season — way too much money for a 31-year-old receiver on a team that has no game-breaker Steve Smith and rookie Keary Colbert.

NHL labor talks finally resume

The Associated Press

TORONTO — The NHL and the players' association returned to negotiations Thursday for the first time in three months, looking to end the lockout that has halted the season.

Sports briefs

The sides met for about four hours at the NHL's office at the Air Canada Centre before calling it a day shortly after 3 p.m. EST.

The NHLPA invited the league back to the table last week and came with a new proposal.

The lockout reached its 85th day Thursday and forced the cancellation of 382 regular-season games and the 2005 All-Star Game.

There hasn't been a negotiating session since Sept. 9, when talks stopped after the union presented a proposal based on a luxury-tax system with revenue sharing. The lockout was imposed a week later by NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman.

Details of the players' latest offer were kept under wraps, but it doesn't contain a salary cap proposal that would give Bettman the cost certainty he is seeking for the league's 30 teams.

The sides scheduled another meeting for Tuesday or Wednesday. The site of the meeting was not immediately announced.

Arenas have been given approval by the league to free dates previously reserved for hockey on a 4-5 day rolling basis. That means there won't be any NHL games before the middle of January.

The league is committed to getting a deal that provides a link between player costs and team revenues. The players' association contends the league will be satisfied only with a salary cap, something the union says it won't ever accept.

Bettman said teams lost more than \$1.8 billion over 10 years and that management will not agree to a deal without a defined relationship between revenue and salaries. Owners say teams lost \$273 million in 2002-03 and \$224 million last season.

Clippers not expected to play in Aussie Open

MELBOURNE, Australia — Former world No. 1 Kim Clijsters is not expected to play in the first Grand Slam of 2005 while she continues to recover

from an injury to her left wrist.

Australian Open chief executive Paul McNamee said Thursday that Clijsters' management company does not expect her to play, and the player cast further doubt on her availability on her Web site.

Clijsters, the 2004 Australian Open runner-up, was limited to just 22 matches this season and fell to No. 22 in the most recent rankings.

Es trails by one in Dunhill Championship

MALELANE, South Africa — Bruce McDonald of Zimbabwe shot 6-under 66 Thursday to take a one-shot lead over Tiger Woods in the PGA European Tour's season-opening Dunhill Championship.

While most of the field struggled to break par at the Leopard Creek Country Club, McDonald mastered the unpredictable conditions and took the lead in the first round after a week in which temperatures soared above 100 degrees.

Former NFL receiver Rison jailed for failure to pay child support

DECATUR, Ga. — Former Pro Bowl receiver Andre Rison was jailed Wednesday in DeKalb County for failure to pay child support.

Rison, 37, who spent 12 seasons in the NFL with the Houston Oilers, Cleveland Browns, Jacksonville Jaguars, Green Bay Packers and Oakland Raiders, was sentenced to jail until he pays \$127,000 to a woman with whom he has two sons.

Rison, a five-time Pro Bowl selection who was MVP of the 1994 Pro Bowl, was sentenced to an additional 20 days in jail for violating a court order to pay \$3,500-a-month child support for his 16-year-old and 18-year-old sons since August 2002.

Tyson accused of jumping on car in Arizona

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — Former heavyweight champion Mike Tyson was arrested on suspicion of misdemeanor criminal damage for allegedly jumping on the hood of a car outside a nightclub, police said. Tyson, who moved to Scottsdale early this year, appeared with attorneys at the city's police station Tuesday afternoon and was released after being given a citation.

SPORTS



Chiefs RB Holmes out
for rest of the season
with knee injury, Page 39

Sonics silence Spurs

Seattle grabs
share of best
record in NBA

BY T.A. BADGER
The Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — Tim Duncan can be added to the list of those who believe the Seattle SuperSonics are for real.

The surprising Sonics built a big first-half lead Wednesday night against San Antonio, and then they got clutch scoring from Ray Allen down the stretch to hold on for a 102-96 victory over the Spurs.

"They're a very good team," said Duncan, who scored a season-high 39 points while leading a San Antonio comeback that petered out in the final minutes.

"Very well-coached — they execute well," Duncan said. "We have respect for them." Seattle's victory ended San Antonio's 21-game home winning streak and gave the Sonics a share of the NBA's best record at 16-3. Phoenix, also improved to 16-3 after beating the Los Angeles Lakers 113-110 late Wednesday night.

It was also the Sonics' second win this season against San Antonio in as many tries, and both times they topped 100 points.

The best anyone else has managed against the Spurs, now 16-4, is 96 points.

Despite the two wins, Allen called San Antonio the league's best team and said the Sonics are still taking shape.

"Right now, we're just one of the teams with the best records," said Allen, who finished with 29 points, including a pair of three-pointers late in the game after San Antonio pulled to within a basket. "We've got to beat teams consistently to be talked about as one of the best teams."

Seattle looked like a runaway winner early, using 58 percent shooting from the floor to build a 19-point lead at the half.

"I think we came out more ready than they thought we would be," said Rashard Lewis, who scored 16 points for the Sonics. "We jumped on them early and everybody was making shots."

Seattle's defensive strategy of crowding Duncan inside and forcing the ball to the perimeter also worked in the first half.

San Antonio shot 38.5 percent before the break.

"It was really bad out there tonight for us," the Spurs' Manu Ginobili said. "The first half was awful."

But the Spurs came out running after the break, and eventual-



Seattle SuperSonics forward Rashard Lewis (7) maneuvers past San Antonio Spurs guard Tony Parker, right and forward Tim Duncan (21) during the second half in San Antonio on Wednesday. The Sonics won 102-96.

ly whittled Seattle's lead to 83-81 on a reverse layup by Malik Rose with 6:36 remaining. Allen followed with a three-pointer and Danny Fortson made two free

throws and a layup to make it 90-81.

After Rose made a jumper, Allen answered with a three-pointer off the backboard to

put Seattle up 93-83.

Antonio Daniels and Fortson each had 14 points for the Sonics.

SEE SONICS ON PAGE 35



Sooners' White
could become
second two-time
Heisman winner

Page 38



Soccer pioneer
Hamm retires
after 17 years
with U.S. team

Page 39



Reportedly leaning
toward retirement,
Astros' Clemens
delays decision

Page 37

